Bengaluru Tuesday, December 23, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 353 ₹7

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The Power of Good

National Herald case: Delhi HC seeks Gandhis' reply

Court notice on ED plea against trial court order

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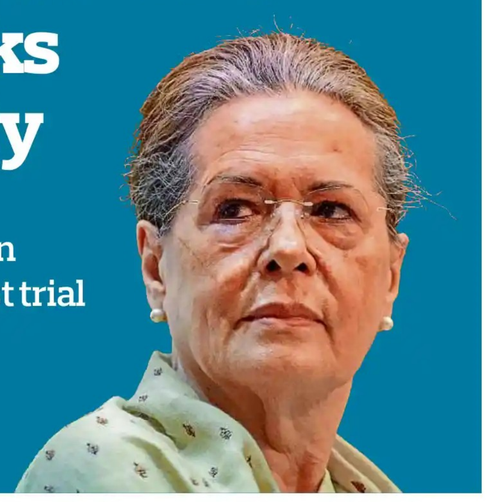

World P.12

Trump appoints envoy to Greenland, stirs backlash

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Gujarat man captured in Ukraine appeals to Modi for help P.10

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Prohibitory orders in 2 Assam districts **P.5**

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Bengal MLA Humayun Kabir floats new party **P.8**

Quickly

Duped of Rs 8 cr, ex-top cop shoots self

Former IPS officer Amar Singh Chahal allegedly shot himself in Patiala on Monday and in a purported note, he claimed that he had been duped of Rs 8.10 crore by cyber thugs who posed as wealth management advisors. He was shifted to the hospital in a critical condition, Patiala senior superintendent of police Varun Sharma said.
Details on Page 8

Core infra sectors grow by 1.8% in Nov

Output of core infrastructure sectors that include cement, steel, fertilisers and energy products, posted a growth of 1.8% in November, marking a rebound from the contraction in the previous month, official data showed on Monday. The rebound was led by strong growth in output of cement, steel, fertilisers and coal.
Details on Page 12

Tunnel road: DCM clarifies on govt share

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar announced on Monday that the state government would fund only 40% of the Bengaluru tunnel road project's estimated cost, regardless of the bid amount. He declined to give details, saying he is yet to see the documents regarding the bids submitted for the project.
Details on Page 2

India seals free trade deal with NZ; its 3rd this year

To come into effect in 2026; pact clinched in 9 months

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and New Zealand on Monday announced a free trade deal that will eliminate duty on a majority of goods trade (except dairy and farm products), ease mobility rules for students and professionals and facilitate investments.

The deal was clinched in around nine months after launching the negotiations, making it the fastest Free Trade Agreement (FTA) pocketed by India.

Following the US imposition of a steep 50% tariffs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government seems to be showing great urgency on FTAs, signing two such deals — with Oman and the United Kingdom — just this year.

Under the FTA, New Zealand has agreed to provide duty-free access to all Indian exports. On the other hand, India has offered to eliminate tariffs on 70% of goods covering 95% of the trade value. However, India has excluded its dairy sector and select farm products from the agreement.

"We have been very sensitive to protect all the sectors, like farmers' interest in rice, wheat, dairy, soya and various other farmer products, agricultural products, which have not been opened up with any access," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters.

Dairy and farm products have been among the most sensitive and politically charged areas in most trade negotiations. New Zealand, which is among the world's largest exporters of dairy products, has been pressing for greater access to the Indian market in this sector.

It also remains a key point of contention in the ongoing India-US trade deal negotiations. India and the United States had launched talks for a bilateral trade agreement in March with a target to conclude the first tranche of the deal by September-October. Goyal claimed that the trade deal with the US is in the advanced stage of discussion.

India-New Zealand deal is likely to be signed in the next three months and would be implemented in 2026.
▸ Trade deal, Page 3A

WHAT INDIA GETS

- 100% Indian exports get duty-free access
  - Protects dairy, farm sector
- $20 bn investment in 15 years
  - Numerical cap on Indian student visas removed
- Working Holiday Visas for 1,000 young Indians annually
- 5,000 temporary visas for professionals like yoga teachers, chefs, nurses

WHAT NZ GETS

- Market access in 70.03% of the tariff lines covering 95% of Bilateral Trade Value while keeping 29.97% tariff lines in exclusion
- Immediate elimination of duty on 30% of products

"We have been very sensitive to protect all the sectors, like farmers' interest in rice, wheat, dairy, soya and various other farmer products, agricultural products, which have not been opened up with any access"
-PIYUSH GOYAL, Commerce and Industry Minister

India, Canada to start FTA talks

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India and Canada are soon to start discussions on the Terms of Reference (ToR) to formally start negotiations for an FTA.

Aravalli mining halted pending sustainable plan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: No new mining leases would be granted in the Aravallis till the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education prepares the "Management Plans for Sustainable Mining" for each of the 37 districts housing a part of the country's oldest fold-mountain belt, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said here on Monday.

Yadav said mining was permitted only in 278 sq km of area in the Aravallis out of 1.43 lakh sq km spread over these districts and ICFRE would make in-depth study of each of these districts before preparing the sustainable mining plan, as suggested by the Supreme Court in a recent order.
Details on Page 5

KSCA wants fan-less Vijay Hazare games at Chinnaswamy

Kohli expected to turn up for Delhi; agencies inspect ground

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police officers inspect the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Following a day of hectic activities, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Monday sought some more time to study the Karnataka State Cricket Association's (KSCA) request for hosting the Vijay Hazare Trophy matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium starting Wednesday.

After KSCA sent a request to the state government for conducting the Group A matches of VHT at the Chinnaswamy Stadium behind closed doors, a committee headed by GBA chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao was constituted to examine the feasibility of conducting a cricket match.

Since the June 4 stampede that left 11 fans dead during RCB's victory celebrations, the state government has barred KSCA from hosting matches with fans at the iconic venue until it implements changes suggested by the Justice D'Cunha Commission that found several flaws.

But with Delhi, for whom Virat Kohli is expected to play about 2-3 matches, slotted to play in Bengaluru, the newly elected KSCA officials approached the state government last week seeking permission to host matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Keeping in mind the safety of players, officials and those involved, the government formed a committee comprising the Bengaluru police commissioner, PWD officials, the Fire and Emergency Services Department and the Health Department to inspect the venue.
▸ KSCA, Page 3A

Forgery: Ex-MP's son, daughter held

BENGALURU, DHNS: The CBI on Monday arrested a serving deputy superintendent of police and the two children of a former Chittoor MP in connection with multiple cases involving criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery relating to the death of one K Raghunath and other matters. Those arrested are DySP S Y Mohan and D A Srinivas and D A Kalpaja, the son and daughter respectively of former MP, the late D K Audikesavulu.
Details on Page 3

After Hadi, another Bangladeshi student leader shot in head

DHAKA, PTI: Unidentified gunmen on Monday shot in the head Motaleb Shikder, a second leader of Bangladesh's violent student-led 2024 uprising.

The attack took place in southwestern Khulna city, days after the killing of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi.

"The Khulna Division head of NCP (National Citizen Party) and central coordinator of the party's workers front, Motaleb Shikder, was shot a few minutes ago," NCP's joint principal coordinator Mahmuda Mitu said in a Facebook post. Mitu said Shikder was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The Kaler Kantha newspaper, quoting hospital sources, said Shikder was shot on the left side of his head, and he was bleeding profusely when he was brought to the facility, where the doctors started emergency treatment. The attack came days after Hadi was shot in the head by masked gunmen.
Related report, Page 8

AI plane returns to Delhi after snag

NEW DELHI, DHNS: An Air India Boeing 777 aircraft headed to Mumbai on Monday returned to Delhi in less than one hour after taking off as its right engine shut down, forcing an emergency landing.

Officials said the Boeing aircraft, with 335 people on board, was involved in an air turn-back as the flight crew observed low engine oil pressure on Engine No. 2 (righthand side engine) during flap retraction after the plane's take-off.

Now, CM says Rahul should decide on leadership issue

MYSURU/BENGALURU, DHNS: Contradicting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the party's top brass, especially Rahul Gandhi, must settle the leadership issue in the state.

Siddaramaiah's remarks on the problem that is confounding everyone with its unending twists came a day after Kharge put the onus on "local leaders" to resolve the matter.

"Rahul Gandhi should decide. The high command should decide," Siddaramaiah told reporters when asked about Kharge's statement.

"I've spoken to the high command. What they said was that they'd decide," Siddaramaiah said. "Let me say this once and for all: ultimately, the high command has to decide. Everyone will be bound by whatever they decide," he said.

Asked if he would complete a full five-year term, Siddaramaiah said: "Whatever the high command says."
▸ Leadership issue, Page 3A

Rahul Gandhi should decide. The high command should decide. I've spoken to the high command. What they said was that they'd decide. Let me say this once and for all: ultimately, the high command has to decide. Everyone will be bound by whatever they decide
SIDDARAMAIAH Chief Minister

H-1B visa holders on edge as US defers interviews

UMA KANNAN & MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Many Indian H-1B visa holders who came to India to renew their US work permits are now stranded, as US consulates have abruptly cancelled or rescheduled their renewal appointments. If not thousands, at least hundreds of H-1B holders are said to be stranded in the country as the State Department has launched enhanced social media screening procedures.

Many professionals have shared their ordeal online. "I am one of those unlucky souls who got hit by the mass rescheduling this week. Had my H-1B interview scheduled for December and got an email saying it's moved to March 2026 that's literally 3 months away... apparently it's coz of the new social media vetting policy (sic)," an H-1B visa holder shared on Blind, which is an anonymous professional community where employees openly discuss work-life, salaries and career moves without revealing their identity.

Another user said he has been stuck in India indefinitely and that his manager was asking if he could work remotely from India, but the payroll situation is unclear. He claimed that lawyers were not giving straight answers.

This cancellation of scheduled interviews is expected to cause delays in their return to the US. Tech companies such as Google, Apple, ServiceNow and Microsoft have advised their employees to avoid travelling outside the US. This delay is due to enhanced screening procedures. An internal State Department memo said that anyone involved in 'censorship' of free speech should be considered for rejection.
▸ Visa, Page 3A

VISA VETTING

- Tech companies like Google, Apple, ServiceNow and Microsoft have advised employees to avoid travelling outside the US
- An internal State Department memo says anyone involved in 'censorship' of free speech should be considered for rejection
- The heightened scrutiny is expected to continue for several months

KALYANA K'TAKA PUSH

SSLC teachers get offer: Hold spl classes, get Rs 1k incentive

BENGALURU, DHNS

To improve Class 10 results in seven districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region this year, the department of school education and literacy has announced an incentive of Rs 1,000 a month to teachers to conduct 'special classes'.

Though regular teachers will be engaged to conduct special classes, the department has decided to encourage them by giving incentives as classes will be conducted before and after school hours.

According to details available, special classes will be held for three months starting from January 2026. The government's aim is to achieve 90% pass in all seven districts of Kalaburagi, Koppal, Ballari, Vijayanagar, Yadgir, Bidar and Raichur during 2026 SSLC exams.

During the 2025 SSLC exams, these districts' performance was poor compared to other districts in the state. Ballari recorded 50.91%, Bidar 52.30%, Kalaburagi 41.35%, Koppal 56.57%, Raichur 50.76%, Vijayanagar 66.78% and Yadgir 50.60%, with overall pass percentage of 52.42 in the region.

These seven districts have 1,345 government high schools, including Kannada, Urdu and Marathi medium.

Mission 40+

The School Education and Literacy Department issued a detailed circular explaining Mission 40+.

According to the circular 'Mission 40+' is to ensure every student secures 40 plus marks.

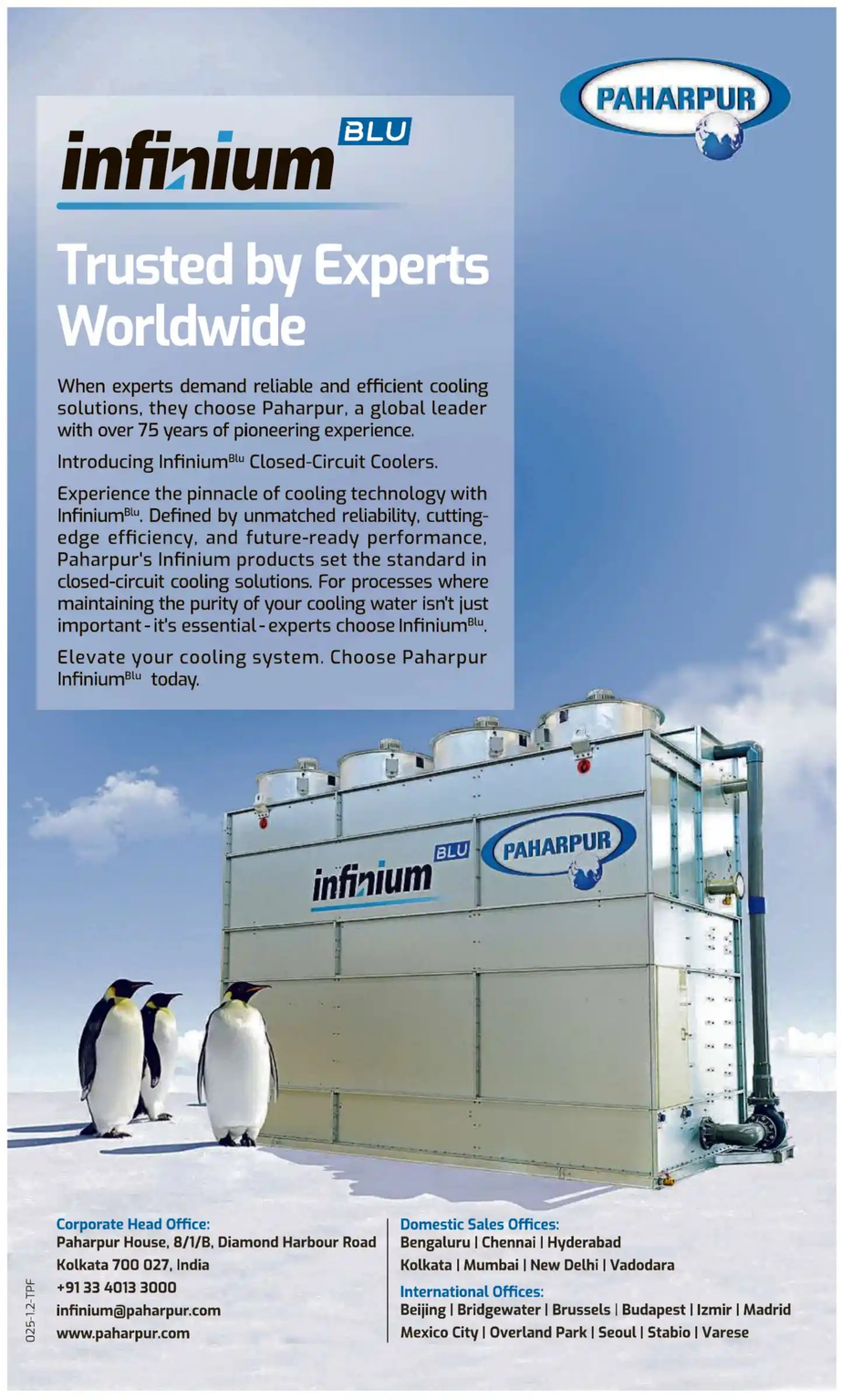
To implement special classes with Mission 40+, the department has released Rs 3.44 crore.

This includes payment of incentives of Rs 1,000 a month for three months to teachers to take special classes and transportation facilities for students who travel from remote areas. For students' transportation expenses, Rs 6,000 per school has been set aside from the released funds. Transportation cost will be directly credited to the bank accounts of the students.
▸ Special classes, Page 3A

BOOSTING RESULTS

Dept's 'Mission 40+' to ensure every student secures 40-plus marks

- To implement special classes with Mission 40+, dept has released Rs 3.44 cr
- This includes incentives of Rs 1,000 a month for 3 months to teachers to take special classes
- To ferry students from remote areas, transportation expenses of Rs 6,000 per school released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Tunnel road: Govt will fund only 40% of estimated cost: DKS

'Pvt agency required to invest whatever is necessary'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday announced that the state government would fund only 40% of the Bengaluru tunnel road project's estimated cost, regardless of the bid amount.

"The project will be executed under the build, operate and transfer (BOT) model, with the private agency required to invest whatever is necessary. The government will fund only 40% of the estimated cost, which is about Rs 1,200 crore per km. We will not pay anything more," he said at a press conference.

He declined to give details, saying he is yet to see the documents regarding the bids submitted for the project.

Shivakumar made the comments in response to a question about the impact of the high bid amounts quoted by the Adani Group for both packages of the 16.75-km Silk Board Junction-Hebbal underground road.

The ports-to-power conglomerate quoted about 24% higher for the first package and 28% higher for the second.

The government estimated the entire project to cost Rs 17,698 crore, while the Adani Group has quoted Rs 22,267 crore. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The government estimated the entire project to cost Rs 17,698 crore, while the Adani Group has quoted Rs 22,267 crore.

The conglomerate quoted Rs 10,867 cr for the Hebbal-Seshadri Road package compared to the government estimate of Rs 8,770 crore. Similarly, it quoted Rs 11,400 cr for the Seshadri Road-Madiwala package, against the government estimate of Rs 8,928 crore.

DH was the first to report the development. Four infrastructure companies had participated in the tenders for the project. Two were disqualified during the technical stage.

Forty per cent of the funding will come from the government, while 60% will be raised by the private concessionaire. The tender conditions allow toll collection rights for 30 years, extendable by another 10, along with six acres of land for commercial development.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"The project will be executed under the build, operate and transfer (BOT) model, with the private agency required to invest whatever is necessary. The government will fund only 40% of the estimated cost, which is about Rs 1,200 crore per km. We will not pay anything more.

Metro to expand by 41 km in May-Dec next year: DCM

City will have 175 km of metro by Dec 2027, says DKS; 'Phase 3 tenders in a month'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru will add 41.01 km to its metro network between May and December 2026, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar stated on Monday.

According to him, the Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere elevated section of the Pink Line with six stations is planned to open in May 2026, and the 13.76-km Dairy Circle-Nagawara underground line with 12 stations and the 19.75-km Silk Board Junction-KR Pura line with 13 stations under Phase 2A will be commissioned in December 2026,

In 2026, the total operational length will increase from 96.1 km to 137.11 km.

In 2027, the network will expand to 175.55 Km, with the 27-km Hebbal-Kempegowda International Airport line opening in June and the 11-km Hebbal-KR Pura stretch in December, he added.

Speaking to reporters after reviewing Namma Metro projects, Shivakumar stated that the Yellow Line, which opened in August 2025, now carries over one lakh passengers per day on average and has helped reduce traffic congestion by 30% in and around Electronics City.

He further spelt out plans to add 100 km to the metro network, taking it to Bidadi, Nelamangala, Hoskote and Tavarekere and other places. Feasibility studies are underway and reports will be ready in another month, he added.

The deputy chief minister stated that tenders for Namma Metro's Phase 3, including India's longest double-decker corridor, would be floated in another month.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has agreed to fund Phase 3, he added. A senior BMRCL official in the know told *DH* that JICA would provide Rs 6,775 crore for Phase 3 and that an agreement would be signed on or before March 31, 2026.

The metro project cost is Rs 15,611 crore while the double-decker will cost Rs 9,692.33 crore, fully borne by the state government.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, additional chief secretary Tushar Girinath, BMRCL managing director J Ravishankar and other officials at a review meeting on Namma Metro on Monday. PHOTO/DCM'S OFFICE

Phase 3A will have two lines. The 32.3-km line connecting JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura, covering the western stretch of the Outer Ring Road. It will include a 28.486-km double-decker from Delmia Circle to Hebbal.

The 12.15-km line connecting Hosahalli to Kadabagere on Magadi Road will feature a 8.635-km double-decker from KHB Colony to Kadabagere.

Shivakumar said about 30 acres was required from the Bajaj Group for building a depot at Sunkadakatte.

He said he had instructed BMRCL to acquire additional land at upcoming metro stations to build multi-level parking and include commercial development.

Tumakuru metro DPR

Aarvee Engineering Consultants Limited will prepare the detailed project report (DPR) for the 59.6-km Madavara-Tumakuru metro line.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) issued the Letter of Acceptance (LoA) to the Hyderabad-based company on Dec 18. The DPR will be prepared for Rs 1.26-crore, including levies, but excluding GST.

A senior BMRCL official confirmed the award of the DPR contract.

Yellow Line trains to run every 13 mins from today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting December 23, trains on the Yellow Line will run every 13 minutes during peak hours from Monday through Saturday as the sixth train will enter passenger service.

On Sundays, the peak-hour frequency will continue to be 15 minutes. There will also be no change in the first and last train timings from either terminal station — RV Road and Bommasandra, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL).

One train is being kept as a traffic spare for emergencies.

The BMRCL received the six-coach trainset in the last week of November.

The coaches were manufactured near Kolkata by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) under a sub-contract with China's CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd, which is supplying 36 trainsets for Rs 1,578 crore.

The 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro corridor opened on August 11 and has pushed up daily ridership to over a million but passengers are unhappy with low frequency and late start time.

Techie honey-trapped, robbed twice in 20 days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested a five-member gang, including two women make-up artistes, for allegedly honey-trapping, robbing and assaulting a 31-year-old software engineer twice within a span of 20 days.

The arrested are Sumalatha alias Anjali (28), of Annapurneshwari Nagar; Harshini alias Sweety (26) of BHEL Layout, and their associates Jagadish (35), Manjunath (30) and Lokesh (32), all from Vidyaranyapura.

The victim, in a complaint, said that on Dec 1, he got a message from an unknown Telegram ID offering companionship and a video call via a dating platform. The woman allegedly sought Rs 20,000, which he agreed to pay. She shared a location and asked him to meet her, a senior police officer said.

When the victim reached the spot, the woman took him into a house on the pretext of talking privately and allegedly asked him to undress. Meanwhile, she snatched Rs 20,000 in cash and his mobile phone, threatening to make an explicit video viral if he approached the police. Fearing public humiliation, the victim managed to retrieve his phone and fled, the officer added.

Contacted again

Despite the earlier incident, the victim was again contacted on December 20 by the same woman, this time using a different Telegram ID under the name "Sweety", with the help of an associate. She once again demanded Rs 20,000 and sent a new location in RR Nagar.

Trusting her, the victim went to the location in the afternoon. However, as he approached the locality, the woman allegedly arrived with three accomplices.

The gang reportedly snatched his wallet containing Rs 20,000, assaulted him by hitting on his face and groin, and also abused him.

"The gang threatened him with dire consequences and demanded a sum of Rs 1 lakh, warning that he would not be allowed to leave alive if he failed to pay. The victim further alleged that he was dragged into a nearby building where the assault continued. He raised an alarm, following which the passersby alerted the police helpline, leading to the immediate arrest of the accused. The police also recovered the cash and handed over to the victim on the spot," the police officer added.

Case registered

Based on the complaint, the RR Nagar police have registered a case for robbery, criminal intimidation and assault.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain whether the gang had targeted other victims .

Speaking to *DH*, the victim said that the woman targeted him a second time after realising that he had not filed a police complaint in the first instance.

"Soon after the arrest of the gang I came to know that Sumalatha identified me as an easy target. It was a honey-trap gang. She asked her associate Harshini to contact me and fix a meeting to extort money, and she joined the conversation while I was speaking to Sweety after reaching the location in the afternoon," he said.

R-Day parade at Manekshaw ground: DC chairs prep meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru urban deputy commissioner G Jagadeesha on Monday directed officials from various departments to ensure all arrangements were in place for the state-level Republic Day celebrations at Field Marshal Manekshaw parade ground here on January 26.

Chairing a preparatory meeting, he instructed the Greater Bengaluru Authority and Public Works Department (PWD) to immediately begin leveling and clearing the ground.

"Security remains a top priority. Police officials have been told to instal baggage scanners at all entry points and deploy high-definition CCTV cameras to monitor crowds. Precautionary measures must be robust to prevent untoward incidents. The security personnel should be vigilant and ensure that the 'no-baggage' policy for members of the public is effectively communicated," the deputy commissioner said.

The district health officer has been tasked with stationing multiple ambulances and emergency medical teams at the venue, not only on the day of the event, but also during full-scale rehearsals. The fire and emergency services department will be on standby with fire tenders and specialised personnel.

In a move to streamline the entry and to manage the expected surge of attendees, the district administration has introduced an e-pass system for the public.

Citizens wishing to witness the parade which typically features march-pasts by the KSRP, CAR and the school contingents can register online.

e-passes for public

"We want to encourage high public participation. The e-pass facility is designed to make access easier for families and students," the DC said.

Traffic police have been directed to draft a comprehensive route diversion plan for surrounding areas, including MG Road and Cubbon Road, to prevent gridlock on the morning of January 26.

USHERING IN YULETIDE SPIRIT

Workers decorate St. Mary's Basilica ahead of Christmas celebrations, at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Pvt bus runs over drunk pedestrian; driver held

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 42-year-old man was killed on the spot after he fell on to the road in a drunken state and was run over by a private bus on Heggnahalli main road in south-western Bengaluru last week.

The Kamakshipalya traffic police, who had been investigating the hit-and-run case, have arrested the bus driver. The deceased was Chetan Kumar.

The incident occurred on Dec 13 around 7 pm. According to police, Kumar was walking home after consuming alcohol at a nearby bar.

CCTV footage of the incident reportedly shows him losing balance and staggering onto the main road.

As he fell, a private bus approaching from behind ran over him. Instead of stopping to provide medical assistance, the driver, Narendra, sped away. Kumar sustained fatal head injuries and died instantly.

Confirming the arrest, DCP (Traffic-West) Anoop A Shetty said, "The victim lost balance and fell on the road, following which the rear tyre of a private bus ran over him. The driver fled the spot. Based on CCTV surveillance, we identified the vehicle and caught the driver."

A case has been registered at Kamakshipalya traffic police station under relevant sections of BNS and Motor Vehicles Act.

BWSSB Blue Force inspects 4k connections, disconnects 70

BENGALURU, DHNS: In just one month, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) "Blue Force" has identified and disconnected about 70 illegal water and sewage connections.

Aiming to crack down on illegal connections, the BWSSB had constituted a dedicated "Blue Force" — a four-member team in each subdivision to identify illegal connections.

"According to official data, the Blue Force teams have conducted over 4,000 inspections across the city in the last month, identifying and penalising hundreds of unauthorised connections that were causing revenue loss and water pressure issues," the BWSSB said in a statement.

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ramprasat Manohar V said that the drive would continue till the unaccounted-for water levels come down significantly.

"The "Blue Force" was constituted to detect illegalities that bypass our meters and rob the city of its rightful resources. Conducting 4,000 inspections in a month shows our commitment. We are using data-driven methods to target high-suspicion areas. The drive will continue until every drop of water is accounted for," he said.

Legal action warned

The water board has warned that besides disconnection, heavy penalties and legal action will be initiated against those property owners who are found using bypass connections or unapproved sanitary lines.

Karnik, CSTEP to work on low-carbon plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Rajya Nirmana Kendra (Karnik), the apex body of the government promoting cost-effective and eco-friendly buildings has entered into an agreement with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) to further its low-carbon development plans.

A memorandum of understanding was signed at an event here on Monday. Karnik director K N Narayana Gowda said CSTEP has taken up an initiative to analyse work done by Nirmithi Kendras in the state and outcomes in terms of climate-resilient buildings. "By examining how the interventions were helpful, we can assess what policies are required," he said.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Inauguration of Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University Postgraduate Centre: M C Sudhakar and Krishna Byre Gowda to be present: Palace Road; noon.

Doctors' Day: B S Patil and Dr Pratima Murthy participate: Association of Physicians, Dr K S Shadaksharappa Hall, APA Bhavan, Vasanthnagar; 6.30 pm.

National Farmers' Day: N Chaluvarayaswamy and N H Sivashankar Reddy participate; Institute of Agricultural Technologists, Queen's Road; 10.30 am.

Distribution of Sewing Machines: Shobha Malavalli, Shivaram, Usha Dongre and Babu Shankar participate; Udayabhanu Kalasangha KG Nagar; 6 pm

CULTURAL

'Nenapinangaladalli GSS: A lyrical tribute to Rashtrakavi G S Shivarudrappa: Ka Vem Srinivasamurthy: Sangeetdhama, Senior Citizens Association: Yoga Hall, RBI Layout; 5.30 pm.

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha: Ruchita Shastri, Leela Natya Kalavrinda, Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	55%
Sunset (Dec 23)	5:59 pm
Sunrise (Dec 24)	6:37 am
Moonrise	8:25 am
Moonset	8:00 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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RR NAGAR EYESORE

Three pillars in three years: Flyover project goes nowhere

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

In August 2022, then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai laid the foundation stone for a flyover at the RR Nagar arch to ease traffic bottlenecks and relieve commuters.

Cut to December 2025, the three concrete pillars at the site stand as a testament to the missed deadline and the daily struggle of commuters.

After blocking almost half of the 100-feet road at the entrance of RR Nagar since the time the project began, the road is now divided by construction debris, uneven roads and the pillars.

"We struggled before the project began, we struggled during whatever work was carried out and and now we are struggling because driving two-wheelers on the debris here is risky and the traffic during peak hours is a pain," said Navneetha Sundar, a PhD student and a resident of RR Nagar.

The project also has encroached on the middle part of the road, reducing the width of the road and adding to commuter woes.

"The whole road is ruined. Up until a few days ago, both sides had traffic on one side and now they have divided it but the traffic signal lights still face the other side. We can hardly see those lights. What is the corporation doing?," said Rajesh K, a civil contractor and resident.

"We do not need a flyover anymore. They can clear those debris and demolish those pillars. Lay good roads, unlike the uneven patchy roads that are laid here just for the sake of it, that is the most basic thing they could do for us," said Devaraj K, a retired teacher and resident.

Debris and pillars of the ongoing flyover work leaves motorists, two-wheeler riders in particular, at risk near RR Nagar arch. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A senior traffic police officer said that peak-hour traffic was piled up due to the road encroached by the project.

MLA speak

The BJP's RR Nagar MLA Munirathna said that he had instructed the contractor to clear construction debris.

"We will get the road cleaned in the next three days but the project will not start until the present Bengaluru minister and government is in power," he told *DH*, referring to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge Minister D K Shivakumar.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials did not answer *DH's* phone calls seeking comment.

South Corpn to spend Rs 3,035 a month on each stray dog

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru South City Corporation will spend Rs 3,035 per month on every stray dog that will be shifted to animal shelters.

According to a recent Supreme Court order, stray dogs in public places have to be shifted out. The corporation has called for tenders inviting NGOs and organisations for shifting and taking care of dogs. The successful bidder will be responsible to catch and transfer the dogs from public places to shelters, neuter and vaccinate them and take care of them. At the shelter, the dogs have to be fed twice daily and a veterinary doctor along with four assistants have to be available at the facility to take care of the strays.

The cost per dog has been arrived at considering the cost of manpower, administrative costs and expenses on medical procedures. The tender has been invited for the maintenance of 500 dogs and the expenses are expected to increase by 5% annually.

Gold smuggling case: HC bins habeas corpus pleas against detention under COFEPOSA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has dismissed two habeas corpus petitions challenging the detention of two accused under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) in the gold-smuggling case involving actress Ranya Rao.

The petitions were filed by relatives of accused Konduru Tarun Raju, Sahil Sakariya Jain.

Incidentally, the court had rejected the habeas corpus petition filed by H P Rohini, Ranya's mother, challenging her daughter's detention under COFEPOSA. Ranya was arrested on Mar 3, 2025, for smuggling 14.2 kg gold into Kempegowda airport.

On her voluntary statement, Raju and Jain were arrested for assisting Ranya in disposing of smuggled gold and in facilitating Hawala transfers to Dubai. On April 22, the preventive detention order was passed against them by invoking COFEPOSA.

The petitions were filed by Rama Raju, a relative of Tarun Raju, and Priyanka Sakariya, cousin of Sahil Jain.

They questioned the detention citing procedural deficiencies. The petitioners argued that there is no evidence to show their involvement in the airport seizure or in any other transaction.

However, a division bench of Justices Anu Sivaraman & Vijayakumar A Patil said there is specific finding about their involvement.

The bench said the detention order specifically discusses role of each of the detenues. It said the procedural safeguards had been followed and the order of detention and subjective satisfaction had been arrived at by detaining authority after considering all aspects.

Temple towns made up big chunk of B'luru's bus bookings in 2025

Leisure travel yet to bounce back, post-Covid

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

City-based bus operators saw a rise in demand for temple town routes in 2025, with a major chunk of bus bookings from Bengaluru being made to these places.

Since the Covid-induced lockdowns, leisure travel is yet to bounce back, they told *DH*.

The other most common bus travel objective remains people travelling back home after studying or working in the city.

This year, the most popular bus travel destinations were Tirupati, Sabarimala, Madurai, Udupi, Thrissur, Dharmasthala and Vijayawada.

At SRS Travels, pilgrimage routes made up 55% of the bookings this year.

"Leisure and festival travel makes up 35% of the bookings, and the remaining 10% can be attributed to corporate bookings," said Balakrishna Rai, manager (operations).

At Siddaganga Travels and Logistics, about 90% of bookings this year were to temple towns — with Dharmasthala taking the top spot.

Among the top pilgrimage destinations in Karnataka, Dharmasthala took the top spot.

As per another popular bus operator, while a majority of Bengaluru residents prefer buses for long distance travel, bookings for tourist attractions such as Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Hampi remain limited.

"We don't see many bookings for these locations within Karnataka, so we run limited buses on these routes. However, the one destination that did well this year for both temple tourism and leisure is Udupi," he said.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) too has seen a steady demand for Karnataka temple towns from female passengers in Bengaluru since the introduction of the Shakti Scheme, shared an official.

"Mostly the demand is for Dharmasthala and Kukke Subrahmanya temple," he told *DH*.

Ticketing platform redBus also witnessed a rise in demand for pilgrimage destinations.

"In 2025, we saw an increase in travel to pilgrimage destinations, pan-India. Pilgrimage trips form a meaningful part of Bengaluru's bus demand. Around 11% of the total bookings are associated with religious travel, with popular pilgrimage corridors including Tirupati, Madurai, Nellore, Ernakulam, Vijayawada, Udupi and Thrissur," said Prakash Sangam, CEO, redBus.

Leisure travel accounted for only 5% of the travel bookings, he said. Prakash added that 93% of bookings this year were made on routes exceeding 250 km.

SWD buffer road will cut MG Road-Bellandur distance by 10 km, heavy vehicles barred: DCM

BENGALURU, DHNS: The road being constructed in the buffer zone of the stormwater drain in Koramangala could cut down the distance between M G Road and Bellandur by nearly 10 km, according to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

The road is expected to be completed within the next three months.

Shivakumar, who inspected the construction of the road on Monday, said that it would help commuters to a great extent. The 5.5-km stretch is being constructed between Koramangala and Sarjapur.

"There is a large portion of defence land in the way. We have written to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and requested him to give us permission. They have asked us to construct high-rise compounds to ensure security on their campus. With this road, commuters do not have to take a roundabout around the defence area. Therefore, it will cut down the distance by nearly 10 km," he said.

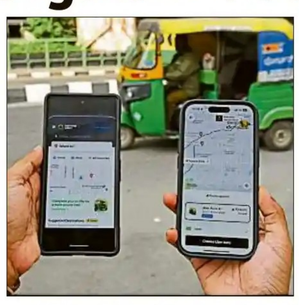
Addressing concerns that the road might not be stable enough since it is being constructed in the buffer zone, the deputy chief minister said heavy vehicles would not be allowed onto the road.

"Only two-wheelers and cars will be allowed to take this road since it may sink if there is heavy load," he said.

In the first phase of the initiative knows as Sanchara Yukta, the government has identified approximately 300 km of such roads and the project will be taken up in phases, he said.

Uber, Ola integrate apps with city police to strengthen ride safety

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ride-hailing firms Uber and Ola on Monday announced a technology integration with the Bengaluru City Police (BCP) aimed at enhancing safety for riders and drivers by strengthening emergency response mechanisms in the city.



Under the integration, users seeking emergency assistance will be able to share their real-time location, trip details and contact information directly with the police from within the app. The feature is expected to enable faster access to critical information, supporting quicker — and potentially life-saving — intervention by first responders.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said "This integration with cab service providers allows us to receive real-time location and user details directly, which can significantly reduce response time and help us assist citizens more effectively during emergencies," he said.

Uber previously rolled out similar safety integrations with law enforcement agencies in Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai, and plans to expand such partnerships across India, Nair added.

How it works?

Riders or drivers can access the safety toolkit by tapping the blue shield icon during a trip. On selecting '112' assistance, users will be prompted with their location and contact details, and informed that these will be shared automatically when they swipe to call 112. After the 'swipe to call', trip and contact information will be shared with the police by default. Users who do not wish to share location data can turn off the sharing option; in such cases, the SOS signal will not be shared with the police control room, though they can still call 112 directly from their phone.

Year-end revelry: City hotels expect big biz as safari ban diverts tourists

BENGALURU, DHNS:

With Christmas round the corner, Bengaluru's hospitality sector is witnessing a significant surge in demand.

While the city usually serves as a transit point for travellers heading to the state's wilderness, a 2-month block on jungle safaris and lodging in popular forest reserves has turned the city into a key destination.

Top-tier 3-star & 5-star hotels are seeing high bookings, fueled by influx of inbound tourists & local revelers. P C Rao, president of Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association, said Christmas-NY period was the most vital revenue window for them.

"We are seeing a lot of people returning to India for holidays, alongside tourists from Mumbai, US & south India. Since safari options are limited, many are choosing to enjoy 'Karnataka culture' here itself," he told *DH*.

Hotels have rolled out festive packages. Five-star establishments are offering gala dinners and live musical performances, with prices for premium packages starting from Rs 10,000 for couples. Mid-range 3-star hotels and popular clubs are hosting festivities, with entry-level packages starting at Rs 8,000.

A general manager of a prominent hotel said, "Our occupancy is at 90%, roughly 15% more than last Dec. Customers are looking for high-end experiences, spa packages and curated city tours".

The industry expects a daily collection of nearly Rs 110 crore on peak days. The exchequer is set to benefit, with extra tax collections projected to exceed Rs 300 crore on NY eve. The government has issued specific guidelines on public safety. Hotels are mandated to strictly monitor CCTV feeds, manage crowd density & implement 'No Drugs' protocols.

"We are taking every precaution," Rao said, adding that guidelines wouldn't dampen the spirit, but ensure safe environment for all.

"Our focus is on celebrations with poolside galas & festive menus. We are seeing a huge surge in guests who want that classic Christmas atmosphere, sparkling decor, live carols and gourmet dining," said the manager at a 5-star hotel.

Uma Reddy, president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry, said, "Hotel bookings are much better than last year's Christmas season. Most prominent hotels are fully booked".

Former MP's son and daughter, serving DySP arrested in forgery case

Suspects accused of fabricating official docus to mislead probe'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested a serving Deputy Superintendent of Police and the two children of a former Chittoor MP in connection with multiple cases involving criminal conspiracy, cheating and large-scale forgery relating to the death of K Raghunath and other connected matters.

Those arrested have been identified as D A Srinivas and D A Kalpaja, the son and daughter, respectively, of former MP, the late D K Adikesavalu; and S Y Mohan, a DySP presently posted at the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Bengaluru.

According to a CBI press release, the arrests were made in cases registered under provisions relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery of valuable security, forgery of government stamps and seals, destruction of evidence and creation of false evidence.

The cases were originally registered by the CBI following directions issued by the High Court of Karnataka, which had ordered a probe into alleged irregularities in the investigation of the death of Raghunath as well as several other connected forgery cases. These matters were earlier probed by the state police.

Subsequently, the high court's orders transferring the investigation to the CBI were challenged before the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court upheld the high court's directions, paving the way for the central agency's investigation.

CBI officials stated that the accused allegedly conspired to fabricate and manipulate official documents, including government records, stamps and seals, with the intent to mislead the investigation and suppress material evidence. The agency is also probing the role of public servants in allegedly facilitating the creation of false records and the destruction of crucial evidence.

The arrested accused were produced before the jurisdictional court after undergoing medical examination, the CBI said, adding that further investigation is underway to identify the larger conspiracy and other possible beneficiaries.

Hundreds on streets after 150 houses demolished in Yelahanka

BENGALURU, DHNS

A woman feeds her children amid debris of demolished houses, near Kogilu Bande in Yelahanka hobli on Monday.

Amid the scattered debris of collapsed homes—utensils, groceries and clothes—a mother is seen feeding her children.

These are the scenes witnessed in the area after sheds built on land belonging to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), near Kogilu Bande in Yelahanka hobli under the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits, were cleared last week.

More than 150 houses have been flattened, leaving over 500 families homeless. With no alternative arrangements made for those affected, they are forced to live amid the debris, exposed to biting cold, heat and dust. The plight of children, the elderly, women and new mothers is indescribable.

With their homes demolished, women are suffering without access to toilets. They are facing severe hardship as there is no space even to breastfeed children or change clothes.

Most of the residents in this area are daily-wage workers and are now worried about how they will repay the loans they had taken to meet everyday needs.

"We had taken loans at high interest rates to manage daily expenses, medical needs and temporary accommodation. Now, we are clueless about how to cope with this situation. Many students studying in schools and colleges have had their education disrupted. With the houses demolished, all personal and educational documents have been buried under the debris," several residents complained.

"Early Friday morning, there was a power cut at home. Suddenly, officials arrived with JCBs and hundreds of police personnel, woke up the children who were asleep and asked us to turn off the cooking gas cylinders. Then they demolished our homes. We have been living here for 25 years. We must be provided alternative accommodation," said Fatima.

"Without issuing any notice, around 3 am, JCBs, hundreds of police personnel, fire engines and ambulances arrived suddenly and destroyed our homes. Someone may give us food, but we have no clothes to wear and no place to sleep. In this biting winter, no one seems to care about our situation. Everyone comes seeking votes; now no one is here," Hasina said angrily.

Latest on leadership issue: CM says Rahul...

Leadership issue, from Page 1

Kharge's statement on Sunday indicated that the high command's initiative to get Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, who are locked in a leadership tussle, have breakfast twice has not succeeded in cooling the tensions.

Kharge declined to comment on Siddaramaiah's stance that the high command should decide. "I've said what I had to," the veteran said.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar maintained that there was no problem that needed solving. "The CM, Kharge and I have said what we wanted to," he said.

During the day, Home Minister G Parameshwara, a chief ministerial candidate, met Kharge. "We discussed family matters, not politics," Parameshwara said. "When the AICC president says that issues must be sorted out amongst ourselves and that they had nothing to do with the high command, we'll have to sit together and resolve," he said.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil also met Kharge and held talks on Monday evening.

Pilot plays down tussle

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Monday said both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar "are working like brothers" and whatever the party high command decided would be "acceptable" to all.

"The Karnataka government has functioned with full integrity and dedication. Whatever promises we made as a party before the polls are being fulfilled. We're working strongly. I can assure you that in 2028, the Congress will come back with a thumping majority," Pilot said.

Rs 1k incentive to Kalyana K'taka teachers to hold special classes

Special classes, from Page 1

According to data, as many as 7,400 teachers will be engaged to improve Class 10 results in Kalyana Karnataka districts.

The department has insisted that teachers complete the syllabus by December-end and stick to the academic calendar released.

During special classes, teachers have been asked to concentrate on improving students' writing skills and focus on revision.

Meanwhile, teachers have also been tasked with visiting houses of students who have been absent from the school for more than seven days.

During the 2025 exams, of the 1,70,788 students from the seven districts who appeared for the exams, only 89,519 managed to pass.

India seals trade deal with NZ...

Trade deal, from Page 1

The two countries announced the conclusion of the deal after Modi held a telephonic conversation with New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

"The two leaders jointly announced the successful conclusion of the historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The FTA negotiation was launched during Luxon's visit to New Delhi in March this year.

"This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for New Zealand exporters, with tariffs immediately removed on more than half of New Zealand's current exports

to India from day one. The gains are wide-ranging and significant," Luxon said in a statement.

Apart from offering 100% duty free access to Indian goods, New Zealand has agreed to facilitate $20 billion investments in India over the next 15 years. New Zealand has also agreed to ease mobility rules for Indian students and professionals.

There will be no numerical cap on Indian student visas. The Indian students will also be allowed to work for up to 20 hours a week during their studies in New Zealand.

Goyal said bilateral trade between India and New Zealand is likely to double to $5 billion in the next five years. India-New Zealand total trade, goods and services put together, stood at $2.4 billion in 2024-25; merchandise trade stood at $1.3 billion.

"The agreement unlocks new opportunities for India's services sector across IT & ITeS, finance, education, tourism, construction and other areas," said S C Ralhan, President, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Enhanced mobility provisions, including working holiday visas, post-study work pathways and a dedicated quota of 5,000 temporary employment visas for skilled Indian professionals, will further facilitate global career opportunities for Indian talent, Ralhan added.

Apart from tariff liberalisation, the FTA includes provisions to address non-tariff barriers through enhanced regulatory cooperation, transparency, and streamlined customs, sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade disciplines, as per a statement by the commerce ministry.

Nagarahole adivasis launch padayatra for ancestral lands

BENGALURU, DHNS: The adivasis of Nagarahole on Monday demanded that the government restore their rights to live in their ancestral lands which have been "arbitrarily" declared as tiger reserve.

Under the banner of the Nagarahole Adivasi Jamma Pale Hakku Samiti, a federation of gram sabhas, the indigenous people launched a 15-day padayatra on Sunday to create awareness about individual and community rights granted under Forest Rights Act.

In a press release, the federation said the forests of Nagarahole were ancestral lands of Jenu Kuruba, Betta Kuruba, Paniya, Yerava and other adivasi communities.

KSCA seeks nod to host Vijay Hazare games at Chinnaswamy

KSCA, from Page 1

The committee visited the stadium on Monday to conduct an inspection. Well-placed sources said that the police commissioner and the fire department and GBA officials inspected the stadium and conveyed their opinion to Rao, who has to submit the report to the government to take further action.

A decision is expected to be made on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mrunthunjaya was hopeful of getting a positive verdict from the state government.

"We requested the government to grant us permission at the Chinnaswamy Stadium without fans. With (Virat) Kohli playing, fans will definitely flock to see him. We are hopeful they would grant us permission."

When asked why they want to host a match without fans considering Kohli holds a special place among Bengaluru fans, Mrunthunjaya said that given the situation, it is better to play it safe.

"We all know what happened earlier this year. Given things are still raw, it is better for us to just stage the match. Take it step by step."

H-1B visa holders on edge as US...

Visa, from Page 1

The H-1B programme allows companies and other employers in the US to temporarily employ foreign workers. While the initial period of stay for those in H-1B status is three years, extensions are available for another three years. Again, it can be extended.

The biggest beneficiary of the H-1B programme is India, as the country accounts for 71% of visa holders, a report from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) pointed out in April this year.

"The current situation appears to be an outcome of the enhanced social media vetting policy that came into effect on December 10," Immigration platform Beyond Border's Co-Founder Frederick Ng told *DH*.

"Since then, there has been increased scrutiny during visa renewals, particularly for applicants who travel outside the US and attempt to re-enter. Given the uncertainty, many visa holders in affected categories — most of them Indian nationals — are being advised to avoid non-essential international travel until there is greater clarity. Once applicants exit the country, they risk prolonged administrative processing," he said.

This heightened scrutiny is expected to continue for several months, and US immigration authorities have stepped up reviews for high-volume and commonly used visa categories, especially F and H-1B visas.

"At present, the visa categories most impacted include H, F, M, and J visas. The H-1B is facing the most attention largely because it is the most well-known and widely used employment visa. This situation reinforces the need for applicants to assess alternatives to the H-1B. Visa categories such as O and L, which are typically more profile-specific, may face relatively lower scrutiny compared to high-volume categories," he explained.

Shilpa Menon, managing director, Commercial, LCR Capital Partners, said while these delays are manageable, they require careful planning and proactive guidance to avoid disruptions or unintended risks to visa status.

"These developments also underscore why the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programme continues to resonate with Indian professionals and families seeking long-term stability in the United States: it offers a more permanent, transparent, and predictable path to a US green card, independent of non-immigrant visa volatility," she said.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना

ई–निविदा सूचना सं० – RCD/GODDA/1317/2025-26 दिनांक –22.12.2025

1.	कार्य का नाम	गोड्डा अन्तर्गत "घाटबंका (NH- 333A) से देवडांड़ (दामा) (सुन्दरपहाड़ी– अगिया मोड़, ODR पथ पर) भाया संदमारा, बेलबथान, राजदाहा एवं जामकुंदर पथ के कि0मी0 0.00 से कि0मी0 17.808 (कुल लं0– 17.808 कि0मी0) का चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण/पुनर्निर्माण कार्य"
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि	रू0 64,72,81,454/– (सैंसठ करोड़ बहत्तर लाख इक्यासी हजार चार सौ चौवन रूपये) मात्र
3.	बीड जमानत की राशि	रू० 64.73 लाख
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	15 (पन्द्रह) माह
5.	वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	30.12.2025 के अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से
6.	प्री–बीड बैठक का दिनांक/समय	06.01.2026 के पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे
7.	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	20.01.2026 के दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
8.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय	21.01.2026 के अपराह्न 12:30 बजे
9.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले अधिकारी के कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा
10.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले अधिकारी का मो0 नं0	8987675852
11.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन सं० /दूरभाष सं०	0651-2446007

नोट :– 1. प्राक्कलित राशि, बीड जमानत की राशि एवं कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि घट–बढ़ सकती है।
2. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
3. विशेष जानकारी के लिये http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता–सह–
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
प0नि0वि0, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

PR.NO.369176 Road(25-26):D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No. B/C.210/Halt/GJT/2025-26/SBC Division
Dated : 15.12.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the **Janaghatta (GJT) Train Halt Station** for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1	Janaghatta (GJT)	Yelahanka	Date will be notified by the administration

Date and Time of submission of application:
From 10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. of 19.01.2026

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
Bengaluru

PUB/748/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)

GEM Bid No. GEM/2025/B/7018503, Dated: 18.12.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager / Mechanical Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for GeM - tender for Mechanical works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **https://gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description: Pest Control, Boric acid, canon and Mosquito treatment in Railway passenger coaches at BBQ, GSN and TBM coaching depots with Rodent and Mosquito control at coaching depot premises of BBQ, GSN and TBM coaching depots for a period of 02 years.

Location	Advertised tender Value in ₹	Earnest Money Deposit in ₹	Similar Nature of Work	Period fo completion in months
Chennai	91105177	605530	Applicable	2 Years

Tender closing date and time: **08.01.2026 & 17:00 hrs.** Details of value of tender, EMD are given in GeM - portal **https://gem.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **https://gem.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager /
(Mechanical) / Chennai - 600 003

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No.: KIR-N-2025-K-65; dated: 17-12-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of G.G.Tronics make MSDAC System in Auto Section (Aluabari Road-Ambari Falakata) of Katihar division. Tender Value: ₹4,76,24,395/-; Earnest Money: ₹3,88,100/-. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs. on 08-01-2026 and **opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 08-01-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 08-01-2026 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

DRM (S&T), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF 160 SQMM G-JUMPERS

E-Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/26 of 2025-26 dated: 17-12-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-47. Name of work:** Supply and Erection of 160 sqmm G-Jumpers to ensure electrical continuity of Overhead Equipment (OHE) wiring, thereby enhancing current carrying capacity suitable for high-speed train operation and improving current capacity in single-line sections within Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,81,24,427.25/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,40,600/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00** hrs. on **09-01-2026.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr.DEE/TRD/Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('**Client**') is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable property morefully described in the '**Schedule**' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the '**Schedule Property**' with **Vizag Educational Institutions Private Limited** ('**Owner**'). The Owner has represented to our Client that it is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections, if any, to the transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of converted immovable property bearing Survey No. 103/2, measuring 06 Acres 25 Guntas, situated at Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the:

East by : Nala;
West by : Road and properties bearing Survey Nos. 103/3, 133 and 134;
North by : Road; and
South by : Property bearing Survey No. 103/1.

Date: 23-12-2025
Place: Bengaluru

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates
Advocates & Solicitors
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1
Residency Road,Richmond Circle
Bengaluru – 560 025.
Ph. 080 - 4350 3600/080 - 4350 3676
Email – brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com

BALANCE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF SUB-STRUCTURE AND SUPER-STRUCTURE OF MAJOR BRIDGE

Tender Notice No.: CON/2025/DEC/07, Dated: 12-12-2025. E - Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** CE/CON/KK/EPC/2025/07; **Name of Work:** RFP for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract Agreement for Balance work of Construction of Sub-Structure and Super-structure of Major Bridge No. 5 (5X12.2M - PSC Slab at Ch.13.400 km), Bridge No. 9 (3x12.2 -PSC Slab at Ch 20.602 km), Bridge No. 10 (5 x 12.2M - PSC Slab at Ch. 22.455 Km), Bridge No.12 (5x 12.20M - PSC Slab at Ch. 28.065 Km) and Important Br. No. 11 (8x45.7M - OWG at Ch. 25.470 Km) and construction of Sub-structure of Bridge No. 6 (1x30.50M-OWG at Ch. 15.665Km), Construction of Sub-Structure and Super-structure of Bridge No. 7 (7x12.2M - PSC Slab at Ch. 17.855 Km) and Bridge No.8 (4x12.2M -PSC Slab at Ch. 19.035 Km), including protection work, guidebund, making Embankment in approaches of Bridge and other related bridge works in Katihar - Kumedpur Railway BG Doubling project of N.F. Railway (construction) on EPC mode. **Approx. Value :** ₹118,84,88,233.13/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **14:30** hrs. on **22-01-2026** and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **28-01-2026**. For complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Con/KIR DL Project/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Industries
Directorate of Industries3rd Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002

CORRIGENDUM
Tender Reference No.: 2395 Dated: 19.12.2025
Add PR No.369052 (Industries) 25-26

In reference to the **Very Short Tender Notice (Re-Tender)** published vide Add PR No.369052 (Industries) 25-26 for inviting Technical and Financial proposals for providing strategic, technical, coordination, and communication support for the visit of a High-Level Delegation to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos (Switzerland) and London (U.K.), the following amendment is hereby made in NIT Document:

S. No.	Particulars	Existing Date & Time/ Website address in NIT	Revised Date & Time/ Website address
4	Last Date of Submission	27.12.2025 at 16:00 Hrs	27.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs
10	Website for downloading Tender Documents	https://www.Directorate.co.in/tenders.php	https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Joint Director, Industries

PR.NO.369125 Industries(25-26):D

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 11th December 2025

S.O. 5748(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government (Ministry of Railways, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special railway project, Construction of ROB and LHS in Lieu of LC No-44 Between Tumkur-Mallasandra Chainage:75/300-400, in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru for ROB / RUB's Construction of ROB and LHS in Lieu of LC No-44 Between Tumkur-Mallasandra Chainage:75/300-400 in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer. Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges Construction of ROB and LHS in Lieu of LC No-44 Between Tumkur-Mallasandra Chainage:75/300-400 in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT :TUMAKURU **TALUK: TUMAKURU**
HOBLI: URDIGERE **VILLAGE: HEGGERE**

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Beneficiary	Acquired Extent (In Acres - Guntas)				Classification of land
			Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
1	8/1C	Mohamaddin Khan, Rahmathunnisa W/o Abdul Rehman	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	Site
2	183	Talavarike Inam	0-01 1/2			0-01 1/2	Dry
3	184/1	Government (Government School and Field)	0-02	-	-	0-02	Government
4	Village	Gramataana	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Gramataana
5	Road	NH-4 Main Road to Kunkumanahalli Village Road Haddigidada Road	1-10	-	-	1-10	Road
		Total	**1-16 1/4**	**-**	**-**	**1-16 1/4**	**-**

ABSTRACT

Site	Dry	Gramataana	Government	Road	Total
0-02 1/2	0-02 1/2	0-00 1/4	0-02	1-10	1-16 1/4

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/755/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (BRIC-inStem)

(An autonomous institute under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India), GKVK Post, Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560065. Ph: 080-61948217 (www.instem.res.in)

Advertisement No. BRIC-inStem/02/2025

Online Applications are invited from suitable candidates at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (BRIC-inStem) on Direct Recruitment failing which by Deputation/Absorption basis for the following Scientific cadre position with all admissible allowances as applicable to Central Autonomous Institute's employees posted at Bangalore.

Sl.	Post Code	Name of the Post	Level in Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC)	Category	No. of vacancy
1	02/25	Senior Professor (Scientist-H)	PL-15	Unreserved (UR)	02 (Two)
2	03/25	Senior Professor (Scientist-H)	PL-15	OBC(NCL)	01 (One)
3	04/25	Professor/Investigator (Scientist-G)	PL-14	Unreserved (UR)	03 (Three)
4	05/25	Reader/Assistant Professor/ Assistant Investigator (Scientist-E)	PL-13	OBC(NCL)	01 (One)
5	06/25	Reader/Assistant Professor/ Assistant Investigator (Scientist-E)	PL-13	Scheduled Tribe (ST)	01 (One)
6	07/25	Fellow E (Scientist-D)	PL-12	Unreserved (UR)	01 (One)
				Total	**09 (Nine)**

Please visit **https://www.instem.res.in/facultypositions/** for complete advertisement, method of applying, other terms and any subsequent revisions/corrigendum. **Last date for receipt of online application is 15.01.2026**

Director
BRIC-inStem

CBC 36304/12/0002/2526

Directorate of Tourism,
Department of Tourism, Art Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand
MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
GSTIN-20RCHD00786C1D4
Phone: (0651) 2400493, email: dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com,
Web:https://tourism.jharkhand.gov.in

e-Tender No.:-Tour/Dir/Pub./18/2025-1202 **Short e-Tender Notice Call-2** **Date:- 19.12.2025**

Online (e-Tender) for Selection of Online Travel Management Platform (OTMP) for Digital Promotion of Jharkhand Tourism in Pan India & Abroad. Jharkhand Tourism invites reputed OTMPs with relevant experience in digital marketing, tourism promotion, and online branding to participate in this tender.

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost (in Rs.)Including GST and other taxes as applicable	Earnest money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Time of completion of work
	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Online Travel Management Platform (OTMP) for Digital Promotion of Jharkhand Tourism.	2,00,00,000.00	4,00,000.00	1 year

RFP/Tender Availability	23/12/2025 (Tuesday) Time: 16:00 Hrs
Last date for receiving Pre-bid queries	29/12/2025 (Monday) Time: 16:00 Hrs
Pre-bid Meeting Google Meet Joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/iro-pnzh-cyx OTMP must submit Pre-bid query before pre-bid meeting date, also no query will be entertained after pre-bid meeting.	31/12/2025 (Wednesday) Time: 15:00 Hrs
Response to queries	02/01/2026 (Friday) Time: 15:00 Hrs
Last date of Submission	08/01/2026 (Thursday) Time: 15:00 Hrs
Technical proposal opening	12/01/2026 (Monday) at 16:00 Hrs
Technical Presentation	To be announced
Financial Bid Opening	To be announced
Cost of Tender	Electronic transfer of INR 10,000/- (Non-Refundable) through Jharkhand Tender website – https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Electronic transfer of INR 4,00,000/- through Jharkhand Tender website – https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Website for downloading Tender Documents	https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Name and Address of Office inviting Tender	Directorate of Tourism, Department of Tourism, Art Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Venue for Bid Opening & Presentation by bidders	Director, Directorate of Tourism, MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004

1. E-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, Tender specification, etc. can be downloaded from website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in the regard can also be procured from the office of the undersigned (0651-2400493) during office hours. NIC helpline no. is 0651-2400178.
2. The bids will be received only through electronic tendering mode will be considered.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services while uploading the bid. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.
4. Bidders must submit a copy of the UTR/reference number as proof of online payment of the tender fee and EMD, as mentioned in the NIT, before the specified cutoff date and time. The details of the finally uploaded BOQ, EMD, and payment instruments (DD/Cheque, etc.) must exactly match the details submitted online (scanned copies); any discrepancies will result in the bid being rejected. Additionally, all bidders are required to submit a hard copy of the technical tender document to the Directorate of Tourism, prior to the tender opening date as specified in the RFP.

PR 369179 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (25-26)D

Sd/- Director, Tourism

Industrial ETPs exempted from obtaining green clearance

Industries to pre-treat effluents: Revised guidelines

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Setting up an industrial effluent treatment plant will not require prior environment clearance (EC) from authorities anymore with a central expert committee limiting the oversight to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and issuing guidelines for the project.

Responding to a query by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), the expert appraisal committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said it had earlier indicated the possibility of providing exemption from the prior environment clearance (EC) for common effluent treatment plant (CETP).

During the meeting held earlier this month, minutes of which were made available recently, the committee looked into the matter of specific environment safeguards required to be followed during the construction and operation phases.

The state pollution control boards have been given the task of enforcing the safeguards.

Doing away with environment clearance is expected to speed up construction of common effluent treatment plants.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Revised guidelines

The committee revised the safeguards listed in a draft notification issued in October. As per the new set of rules, a CETP can be set up in sites which meet the criteria provided effluent has to be transported exclusively through a dedicated pipeline network and not in tankers under any circumstances and the treated water has to be sent back for industrial use and not for agriculture, horticulture, landscaping or other uses.

Industries have to pre-treat the effluent, the CETP should have continuous online monitoring systems which will be supervised by the state and the central pollution control boards. The sludge generated in the plant has to be handled, stored, transported and disposed of as per the provisions of the hazardous waste rules.

Doing away with environment clearance is expected to speed up construction of CETPs. However, a source noted that the delay in the construction of CETP in places like Peenya and Jigani were not due to the prior environment clearance. "It's the lack of enforcement that has led to delay in construction of CETP. The exemption from EC will only help if the state shows willingness to prevent effluents joining the surface and groundwater," a source said.

The delay, especially in the Jigani industrial area, had attracted the ire of the National Green Tribunal which had also imposed hefty penalty on the state government as environment compensation.

Embedded power generators can't claim absolute right of supply, rules HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has ruled that state-embedded generators cannot claim an absolute right of transmission/supply of electricity to any licensee and the same is subject to directions of the government in an extraordinary circumstance, arising in public interest.

The court said under extraordinary circumstances, the government can issue directions under Sec 11 of Electricity Act to embedded generating companies, since they do not qualify as interstate generating firms within the meaning of Sec 2(36) of the Electricity Act.

A division bench of Justices Anu Sivaraman and Rajesh Rai K observed this while allowing a batch of writ appeals filed by State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) and Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).

The appellants had challenged the Mar 11, 2024, order of the single bench quashing the Oct 16, 2023, order by the government under Sec 11.

The order was challenged before the single bench by Altilium Energie Private Limited, a company into electricity trading, NSL Sugars Limited and Chamundeshwari Sugars Limited, both sugar factories having embedded cogeneration plants.

In appeal, the state submitted that Sec 11 is an exclusive emergency power designed to address extraordinary circumstances threatening state's security and public order arising from natural calamities or other public interest considerations.

The bench said electricity crises are the archetypical regional or state-specific phenomenon. During drought-induced power crisis, government is compelled to handle the situation by exercising emergency power stipulated under Sec 11 over generators embedded in state when those generators occasionally sell surplus power to other states.

The bench said the state issued the notification in an extraordinary circumstance, the public order arising from natural calamities. It is pivotal to note that the government took the decision as a remedial and protective one in state's interest, the bench said.

Retired man kills wife, tries to pass it off as road accident

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A retired employee of a private escort agency has been arrested for murdering his wife and attempting to mislead the police by claiming that she died in a road accident, police said on Monday.

The accused was identified as R Anantha (64). His wife wife G S Gayathri (52), a government school physical education teacher, was found dead at a vacant site near Mitaganahalli on Sunday evening. The couple lived in Yelahanka with their daughter.

A senior police officer said that Gayathri would often humiliate Anantha in front of his relatives, refuse to serve food when they visited their house, and stopped giving him money for daily expenses after his retirement.

"Upset over her behaviour, Anantha had earlier filed a divorce petition. However, their 17-year-old daughter later persuaded him to withdraw the petition, telling him that he was old and should not pursue the separation. He subsequently withdrew the case," the officer said.

During interrogation, Anantha told the police that Gayathri had been returning home very late for the past one week, leading to heated arguments between them and thus he hatched the murder plot.

As per his confession, on Sunday around 6.30 pm, Anantha took Gayathri on his electric scooter to a vacant site under the pretext of showing house construction plans and a puja. She lit a Diya and two bananas at the site and prayed. He then allegedly picked up a stone and assaulted her repeatedly. He also smothered her to ensure she was dead, the police said.

R Anantha and G S Gayathri in happier times

Doctors observed that the injuries on the body were inconsistent with those typically seen in road accidents and raised suspicion over the cause of death.

In an attempt to cover up the crime, Anantha approached a nearby shopkeeper and claimed that his wife had died in a road accident after being hit by a speeding bullet bike. The shopkeeper immediately alerted the Chikkajala traffic police.

Traffic police personnel rushed to the spot and shifted Gayathri's body to a government hospital for post-mortem examination. However, doctors observed that the injuries on her body were inconsistent with those typically seen in road accidents and raised suspicion over the cause of death.

Based on the doctors' observations, the traffic police alerted the Bagalur police, who took Anantha into custody for questioning. During interrogation, Anantha admitted that he had tried to mislead the police by projecting it as an accident case, the police said.

A court has remanded him in police custody for further investigation.

Call for safe use of AI at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's conclave

A comprehensive research report, 'Principles for Ethical and Safe Agentic AI Orchestration Across Infrastructure Gradients – Safety Guidelines for Critical Sectors in India and the Global South', was released at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri campus.

The report was unveiled during the AI Safety Conclave, organised by the AI Safety Research Lab, part of the Amrita Center for Cybersecurity Systems and Networks, under the theme 'Safe AI for the Global South'. The conclave was convened with the objective of ensuring safe, ethical and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for developing nations, and was held as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to be organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

(Left to right) Dr Sivaramakrishnan R Guruvayur, Dr Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh, Dr S N Jyothi, Avinash Agarwal, Ankit Bose, Vinay Chandran and Dr Krishnashree Achuthan.

The conclave featured eminent global and national leaders, including Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT and CEO of the IndiaAI Mission; Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO; Dr Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of ICT, Mauritius; Dr D Seshagiri, Director and Scientist, NPOL–DRDO; Ankit Bose, Head AI, Nasscom; Vinay Chandran, Partner, Quantum Black, AI by McKinsey, Middle East; and Avinash Agarwal, Deputy Director General (International Relations), Department of Telecommunications, Government of India.

Also present were Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh, Dean Dr Krishnashree Achuthan, Associate Dean (Engineering) Dr S N Jyothi and Head - AI Safety Research Lab Dr Sivaramakrishnan R Guruvayur, among others.

University officials stated the report is designed to guide ethical, safe and coordinated deployment of agentic AI, with special attention to the socio-economic and infrastructural realities of India and the Global South. The report outlines key principles and practical frameworks for responsible use of AI, particularly in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, finance, energy and public services.

Curated by DH Brandspot

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Bharat
VIKSIT BHARAT - G RAM G
Now 125 days of
Guarantee
of Rural Employment
Stronger provision for unemployment allowance
Timely wage payment and delay compensation
Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) by Gram Sabha
CBC 35101/13/0056/2526
Viksit Gram Panchayats paving the way for Viksit Bharat

Activists of KRV set fire to an effigy of MP Dhairyasheel Mane from Maharashtra, near the DC office in Belagavi on Monday.

KRV takes out Maha MP's mock funeral march, burns effigy

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Members of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) staged a protest here on Monday against MP Dhairyasheel Mane, over his letter to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

KRV activists assembled at Channamma Circle, raised slogans against him and took out a mock funeral procession of him till DC office.

They beat his effigy with footwear, before setting it on fire there.

Deepak Gudagnatti, KRV district president, said political leaders from Maharashtra who come to participate in protests and other events of MES create law and order problems and sow seeds of hatred among Kannada and Marathi-speaking people.

Suresh Gavannavar, Ganesh Rokade and other leaders took part in the protest.

Police, protesters in effigy tussle

A tussle erupted between police officials and KRV activists during the protest.

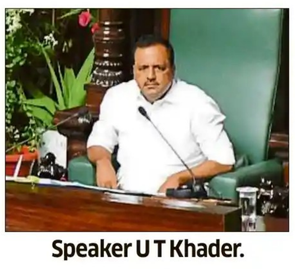
As soon as MP Dhairyasheel Mane effigy was brought in an autorickshaw by KRV members, police personnel present there snatched it and ran towards Kakatives Road.

The KRV members chased the police and there were verbal exchanges between the two sides.

In the melee, Mane's effigy broke into two parts. The KRV activists used one part of the effigy for the MP's mock funeral procession.

Hate speech bill debate: Khader frowns on Oppn MLAs' conduct

'Winter session proceedings held for 57 hours and 35 mnts'



Speaker U T Khader.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader on Monday criticised opposition MLAs for storming into the Well of the House even as Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka was speaking during the penultimate day of the just-concluded Winter Session of the Legislature, stating that it wasn't a "good development."

Addressing a news conference, Khader explained that a constructive discussion was happening about the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill (on Thursday) when a heated exchange took place between a minister (Byrathi Suresh) and some Opposition MLAs.

"I told that the LoP should speak. If the LoP or some senior ministers come to the Well, it's a different matter. But when the LoP is speaking, if people at the back come to the Well, what should we do? After that, there were three important bills (to be discussed) — (internal) reservation Bill, social boycott bill...That decision had to be taken in that situation."

Khader also noted that the proceedings during the 10-day Winter Session (December 08-19) were held for a duration of 57 hours and 35 minutes.

N-K discussions

He pointed out that 22 bills were tabled in the Assembly, while 23 Bills were passed, including the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, which had been sent to a legislative committee in the previous session.

Khader explained that North Karnataka issues were discussed for 17 hours and 2 mins, with the participation of 39 members.

Unlike previous sessions where North Karnataka-related issues would be taken up in the second half, this session saw these discussions from the very beginning, he added. On the final day (December 19), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah answered on behalf of the government. When asked about the Opposition asking him to extend the session, the Speaker explained that the decisions taken in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) had been followed.

Belagavi: Shettar plans counter letter to Om Birla to present state's case

Mahajan report on inter-state boundary dispute final: MP

BELAGAVI , DHNS:

Belgaum MP Jagadish Shettar said on Monday that he would send an email to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and also meet him to counter the false allegations made by MP Dhairyasheel Mane, alleging that his human rights were violated and there was breach of privilege.

Shettar told reporters here that political leaders, including ministers, MPs and MLAs from Maharashtra and Goa, visit Belagavi regularly and there was no ban on their visits.

Law and order situation

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan banned Mane from visiting Belagavi on November 1, to ensure that law and order situation and linguistic harmony was not affected.

"There have been precedents of visits of political leaders from Maharashtra being banned on November 1, to maintain law and order as we celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava and MES observes 'black day'," the MP said.

Allegations made by Mane were false and unconstitutional, he added.

"I will urge MPs from the state to accompany me while meeting Birla, if they are in the national capital, to present Karnataka's case before the speaker," he said.

'No need to revisit case'

Shettar said the Mahajan Commission was formed after both states agreed and the inter-state boundary dispute had been resolved as per its recommendations. There was no need to revisit the case now, he said.

Earlier, members of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike submitted a memorandum to Shettar, urging him to counter the Maharashtra MP's letter to the speaker, with another letter.

Ban on entry to Belagavi: Maharashtra MP to write to Speaker

Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) yuva samiti leader Shubham Shelke said on Monday that the pro-Maharashtra outfit would write a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, highlighting "violations of rights of Marathi-speaking people by Karnataka government and district administration by not providing them facilities."

In a video statement issued here on Monday, Shelke said, MP Dhairyasheel Mane from Hatkanagale constituency in Maharashtra, had already written to Birla, alleging that his human rights were violated and there was breach of privilege, with Belagavi DC Mohammad Roshan banning his entry into Karnataka on November 1, for MES' black day rally.

Mane's letter demanded that action be taken against the official. The letter followed repeated bans on his visit to Belagavi.

"Mane is an elected MP and has the right to traverse across the country, but his entry in Karnataka is banned. Political leaders from Maharashtra need to realise that Karnataka has been aggressive in protecting its interests in the inter-state boundary dispute, while their state was soft," he said.

He condemned the protests staged against Mane by Kannada organisations.

TALENT TOPPERS

Students present Bhangra dance during the valedictory of Yuvajanotsava of Gulbarga University in Kalaburagi on Monday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

In veiled dig at Siddu, HDK says he should become Trump's economic adviser

Thinks it will be good for both US prez & K'taka

H D Kumaraswamy.

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is adept at imposing new taxes. He should go and serve as an adviser to the US President Donald Trump. It would help Trump, and also be good for the state of Karnataka," Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy said caustically.

Speaking to reporters in Balehonnur, he said, "Trump is struggling over tax issues. He is suffering because he could not find the right experts. Karnataka is too small for Siddaramaiah's economic knowledge. Trump has set out to do something for the entire world. If Siddaramaiah is with Trump, it will be good for everyone," he said mockingly.

"If Siddaramaiah says he himself will present the next budget, someone else says he has spoken to God. Let us wait and see what happens in the next 45 days. It doesn't matter who becomes the chief minister. What we want is the development of the state," he said.

"The people's money is being looted. Rs 47 crore was spent on helicopter rides. Even though my health is not good, I have come to Balehonnur by road. Development is evident when you look at the roads. I am not saying travelling by helicopter is wrong. But when it takes just half an hour to travel from Mysuru to Chamarajanagar, what is the point of going there by helicopter?," he asked.

Cruise season begins at New M'lore Port

MANGALURU, DHNS

New Mangalore Port marked the commencement of the 2025–26 cruise season with the arrival of the first cruise vessel- MS Seven Seas Navigator, on Monday.

Flying the Bahamas flag, MS Seven Seas Navigator has a Length Overall (LOA) of 172.50 metres, draft of 7.50 metres, and Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of 28,803. The vessel arrived from its last port of call from Mormugao Port. The cruise carried 450 passengers along with 360 crew members.

Cruise vessel MS Seven Seas Navigator called at New Mangalore Port on Monday.

The NMPA extended a warm and vibrant traditional welcome to the international cruise tourists, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. Vinitha Sekhar, Commissioner Customs, Mangaluru welcomed the master of the ship along with Traffic Manager, officers and employees of the Port.

In addition, a meditation centre set up by the Ministry of AYUSH, free Wi-Fi connectivity provided by NMPA, and a selfie stand depicting Mangaluru's Yakshagana art form installed by the Ministry of Tourism added unique experiential value for the cruise passengers.

Passengers visited prominent tourist destinations in and around Mangaluru, including Karkala Gomateshwara Temple, the Thousand Pillar Basadi at Moodabidri, Soans Farm, Pilikula Nisargadhama, Artisan Village, Gokarnanatha Temple, St Aloysius Chapel and other places. The cruise later in the evening sailed to Cochin.

Atal birth anniversary event on Dec 25

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former deputy chief minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday that former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's 101st birth anniversary will be celebrated on December 25 at the Jnanajyothi Auditorium.

Addressing a press conference, Narayan noted that Vajpayee's birth anniversary was being celebrated across the country as Sushasan (Good Governance) Day.

He said the programme from 1 pm to 7 pm would be held in two parts. "The first part will be about public universities, syllabus and artificial intelligence. In the second part, Atal Awards will be presented," the Malleshwaram MLA added.

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'Forest land can't be used for agri purposes': SC allows K'taka govt to take back 134 acres

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said forest lands could not be allowed to be used for non-forestry purposes, including agriculture, as it upheld the Karnataka government's decision to take back possession of nearly 134 acres of such lands in Dharwad, granted to a cooperative society for cultivation.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta found Gandhi Jeevan Collective Farming Cooperative Society Limited, having enjoyed cultivatory possession over the forest area for a period of more than 10 years, was not entitled for any further extension of the lease which was in the first place illegally granted.

In an order on December 18, 2025, the court said, "Granting permission to cultivate the forest land would essentially require clearing of forest and such a course of action is in the teeth of Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,

which precludes de-reservation or use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the central government."

The bench held the very grant of lease to the society for agricultural purposes was uncalled for because it led to devastation and deforestation of huge forest area admeasuring nearly 134 acres in Dharwad.

On March 17, 1973 and June 30, 1976, the state government granted an area of 134 acres 06 guntas of land located at Benachi and Tumarikoppa village in Kalaghatagi Taluk, Dharwad district to the respondent-society on 10-year lease starting from June 30, 1976 for agricultural purpose.

The lease was terminated on March 13, 1985. However, the forest department took over the possession of land only in 2007 after protracted litigation.

The society then approached the High Court, which in 2009, granted liberty to it to make a suitable representation to the Deputy Conservator of Forests under the relevant rules within eight weeks and the state government was directed to forward the said representation to the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Union of India to pass appropriate orders within six weeks thereafter.

Before the apex court, the state government submitted, the lands fall under the category of "forest" and are in the ownership and possession of its forest department.

It also relied upon the SC's order of November 13, 2000 in the case of Centre For Environmental Law, WWF-I Vs Union of India, declaring that de-reservation of forest or sanctuaries or national parks cannot be made without the permission of this court.

The bench also said, "We are of the firm opinion that the HC's order, giving the society an opportunity to make a representation to be considered by the central government for continuation of the lease on the forest land is not sustainable in the eyes of law."

The bench also emphasised, this court in a catena of decisions has passed numerous mandatory directions prohibiting dereservation of forest.

"As per the extant statutes, forest lands could not be allowed to be used for non-forestry purposes which would include agriculture," the bench said.

The court gave the forest department 12 months to plant trees on the land and scheduled the matter on December 17, 2026 for examining compliance.

BJP proposing elimination of Constitution: Rahul in Berlin

NEW DELHI, PTI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the BJP is proposing "elimination of the Constitution" that grants equal rights to all and vowed to create a system of opposition's resistance that will succeed in removing the party from power.

Rahul Gandhi

Speaking at the Hertie School in Berlin last week, Gandhi also alleged that the BJP has launched a full-scale assault and has captured the institutional framework of the country to help use it as a tool for building its political power and that is what the Opposition is fighting against.

In an hour-long video released by the Congress on Monday, Gandhi said India's largest and complex democracy is a global asset and the "assault" on the Indian democratic system is also an attack on the global democratic system.

"What the BJP is proposing essentially is the elimination of the Constitution. Elimination of the idea of equality between states, elimination of the idea of equality between languages and religions, elimination of the idea of the central core of the Constitution which is that every individual will have the same value," the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said to a group of students at the Hertie School.

Answering queries of students, Gandhi claimed that there is a weaponisation of the institutional framework.

"We fundamentally believe that there is a problem with the electoral machinery in India. Second thing is that there is a wholesale capture of our institutional framework. There is a full-scale assault taking place on the institution framework of our country," he claimed.

CDS flags need for short wars, long readiness to deter terror

MUMBAI, PTI: India should be prepared to fight short-duration, high-intensity conflicts to deter terrorism, something like Operation Sindoor, and long duration conflict because of the territorial disputes with its neighbours, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Monday.

Speaking at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Gen Chauhan said multi-domain operations will no longer be an option but a necessity, where the effects of one domain will be immediately felt on the other.

"What kind of threats and challenges should India be prepared for? This should be based on two facts. Both our adversaries — one is a nuclear-weapon state, and one is a nuclear-armed state —hence we should not allow that level of deterrence to be breached," he said without naming Pakistan or China.

He said India has territorial disputes with both its neighbours. "We should be prepared to fight short-duration, high-intensity conflicts to deter terrorism, something like Operation Sindoor. We should be prepared for a land-centric, long-duration conflict, given our existing land disputes. Yet, we should try to avoid it," he said.

Aravalli mining curbed pending sustainable plans: Centre

ICFRE to prepare district-wise schemes as per SC direction

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

No new mining leases would be granted in the Aravallis till the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) prepares the "Management Plans for Sustainable Mining" for each of the 37 districts housing a part of the country's oldest fold-mountain belt, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said here on Monday.

Yadav added that mining was permitted only in 278 sq km in the Aravallis out of 1.43 lakh sq km, spread over these districts, and the ICFRE would conduct an in-depth study of each of these districts before preparing the sustainable mining plan, as suggested by the Supreme Court.

The minister's comments come on the day the apex court received a request to review its November 20 judgment on mining leases in the Aravallis, and the Congress — the principal opposition party — hit the streets to protest against the Union government's "100 mt formula" that former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot said the top court rejected in 2010.

The 100-metre formula pertains to the recent recommendations of a committee under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF) on the definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges, accepted by the Supreme Court on November 20.

As per the new definition, "Aravalli hill is any landform in the designated Aravalli districts with an elevation of 100 mt or more above its local relief", and an "Aravalli range is a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other".

Gehlot said such a definition would destroy 90% of the mountain in Rajasthan, while Yadav asserted that this would help protect 90% of the range.

Congress parliamentary party president Sonia Gandhi aired her concerns about the dangers posed to the Aravallis from such a definition.

Yadav said mining was not allowed in districts falling within the National Capital Region as well as in protected areas, including tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries, and areas with water bodies.

"The Congress, which allowed rampant illegal mining in Rajasthan during its tenure, is spreading confusion and misinformation," he said.

Climate worries

Critics, including environmentalists and scientists, have argued that many ecologically important parts of the Aravalli system — like low ridges, slopes, foothills, and recharge areas — did not meet the 100-metre threshold, and yet were important for groundwater recharge, biodiversity support, climate moderation, and soil stability.

They expressed fears that areas excluded under the new definition might be opened for mining, construction, and commercial activities, weakening ecological continuity across the range.

U'khand govt a mute spectator: SC on forest land grab

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

SUPREME COURT

"What is shocking to us is that the State of Uttarakhand and authorities are sitting like mute spectators when forest land is being grabbed in front of their eyes. Thus we initiate a suo motu case.

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on the Uttarakhand government over the grabbing of forest land after noting that the state and its authorities were sitting like "mute spectators". Thus, it initiated a suo motu case in the matter.

A vacation bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the chief secretary of Uttarakhand to form an inquiry committee and submit a report in this regard.

The case pertained to 2,866 acres of government forest land in Uttarakhand, a part of which was leased out to an organisation named Pashu Lok Seva Samiti.

The court also directed the chief secretary and the principal conservation secretary of Uttarakhand to set up a fact-finding committee.

"The committee will have to submit a report after assessing the situation. This could enable the court to assess the scale of the alleged encroachment of forest land and how state authorities have responded," the bench said.

The court also ordered that all construction on the forest land be stopped immediately.

The Forest Department and the concerned collector were to take possession of the vacant land, other than residential houses, the court ordered while fixing the matter for further hearing to January 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, Pashu Lok Seva Samiti told the court that it had allotted parcels of the land to its members. After the organisation came under liquidation, it surrendered 594 acres of land to the Forest Department on October 23, 1984.

Deciding to examine the matter, the bench said that while development was necessary, it should not come at the cost of the environment and lives.

Cong 'insiders' aided 2013 Naxal attack: Nadda

Party slams BJP prez, asks NIA to interrogate him

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a sharp attack on Congress, BJP president JP Nadda on Monday alleged that some insiders in the party were involved in facilitating the 2013 Jhiram Ghati Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh, which led to the killing of state Congress leaders.

JP Nadda

In 2013, at the Jhiram Ghati, Naxalites attacked a rally where over 200 Congress leaders were taking part. The attack, which took place via an IED blast and then firing by Naxalites, left 32 people dead, including then state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, former leader of opposition Mahendra Karma, and former union minister Vidyacharan Shukla.

Nadda said he was in charge of the Chhattisgarh BJP in 2013 and closely witnessed developments related to the attack. He said the incident was extremely painful for the country, and that Naxalism was being strengthened by information coming from within.

"I want to say with full responsibility... Jhiram Ghati's incident details and inside information were not given by anyone else but the people among them (Congress) who wanted to get their own people killed and were in touch with Naxals," Nadda claimed.

He added that conspiracies were being hatched to get one's own people killed. "When the horse befriends grass, what will it eat. When the protector himself becomes the oppressor, where will the common people go?" he added. Nadda was speaking at a function to mark the two-year anniversary of the Vishnu Deo Sai government.

Nadda said previous Congress governments had colluded with Naxalites, while the 'double-engine' government under PM Narendra Modi confronted Left-wing extremism head-on.

Congress reacts

His comments drew sharp reactions from Congress. Former CM Bhupesh Baghel asked the security agencies to interrogate Nadda. "Security agencies, including NIA, should interrogate him and demand evidence for his claims," Baghel said.

(With PTI inputs)

Assam eviction protest erupts in Karbi Anglong; 4 injured

GUWAHATI, DHNS

Four people were injured in police firing on protesters who went on a rampage, setting ablaze the residence of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) chief in Assam on Monday, prompting the authorities to impose prohibitory orders in two districts, officials said.

The district administration issued a prohibitory order against gathering of more than four persons as the situation remained tense following the incident.

The residence of KAAC chief in Dongkamokam after it was allegedly torched by protesters. PTI

Ongoing protest

The unrest stemmed from ongoing protests demanding eviction of alleged illegal settlers from the Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) and Village Grazing Reserve (VGR), which indigenous groups claim is protected for community use.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that a section of people in Karbi Anglong wanted encroachers from the Professional Grazing Reserve (PGR) and Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) in the two districts to be evicted.

There is, however, an interim order of the Gauhati HC that has stalled eviction. "The administration cannot carry out an eviction when there is a court order," the CM said.

A group of agitators has been on an 'indefinite' hunger strike for the past two weeks.

The situation turned tense on Monday morning when police forcibly tried to remove the protesters.

The protesters blocked roads and some of them pelted stones. This led police to use batons and fire in the air, following which the agitators set fire to a house of Tuliram Ronghang, the chief executive member of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, a council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sarma said rumours began circulating that three protesters who were on hunger strike had been arrested, and they became agitated. "No one has been arrested," he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Congress slams govt over second rail fare hike

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday targeted the Modi government over the second hike in rail fares within a year, accusing it of "leaving no opportunity to loot" the public and alleging that the Railways has suffered a "sad saga of neglect, apathy and fake hype" under the BJP.

Kharge, who served as Railway Minister between June 2013 and May 2014, claimed that accountability had "vanished" after the scrapping of the separate railway budget.

"The Modi government is leaving no opportunity to loot the common public. Second railway fare hike in a single year, days before the Union Budget. Railways ail as the Modi government is busy with fake publicity rather than concrete delivery," he said.

His remarks came after the Ministry of Railways announced a fare hike of one paise per km for ordinary class journeys beyond 215 km, and two paise per km for non-AC classes of mail and express trains and AC classes of all trains.

Kharge said safety had deteriorated. "Safety derails, deaths mount: 2.18 lakh deaths in railway accidents (NCRB report, 2014–23). Railways are no longer safe; they are a gamble with life," he said.

Thirupparankundram dargah festival begins amid protests by Hindu devotees

CHENNAI, DHNS: Amid protests by a section of Hindu devotees, the annual festival of the Sikkander Badusha dargah atop the Thirupparankundram hill in Madurai commenced on Sunday.

The Hindu devotees protested against the nod given to Muslims to climb atop the hills for the festival while not permitting them to light the Karthigai Deepam on the Deepathoon earlier this month.

However, several videos from Thiruparankundram showed its residents welcoming Muslims and joining their procession.

People from both religions have lived in harmony for the past century and have been respecting each other's traditions—they had also asked groups from both faiths to desist from politics.

Flag hoisted

Following permission from the Thirumangalam revenue divisional officer, the flag was hoisted on December 21 night at the Sikandar Badusha Auliya Dargah for the "Santhana Koodu" festival on January 6, 2026.

A group of activists from the BJP and right-wing organisations protested the permission given to Muslim devotees. They raised slogans against not being allowed atop the hill during the Karthigai Deepam festival but were detained.

Meanwhile, the police on Monday permitted the Hindu devotees to visit the Kasi Viswanathar temple atop the Thiruparankundram hill from 6 am to 6 pm, subject to thorough frisking.

Committed to safeguarding religious harmony: Vijay

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Even as he continues to maintain a stoic silence on the Thiruparankundram temple row, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam chief and actor Vijay on Monday said his party will stand by the country's "secularistic principles" and work towards safeguarding religious harmony in Tamil Nadu.

In his brief speech at 'Inclusive Christmas' celebrations organised by his party, Vijay spoke about Tamil Nadu being a haven of religious harmony where people celebrate festivals of all faiths. Explaining why his party professed faith in God by rejecting the anti-god theory of one of its ideological leaders, Periyar, Vijay said, "True faith" not merely sows the seeds of harmony but teaches everyone to respect the beliefs of others.

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief Vijay cuts a Christmas cake with children during an 'Equality Christmas' celebration in Mamallapuram on Monday. PTI

The TVK chief joined the list of politicians who organised and addressed Christmas celebrations in Tamil Nadu in the past few days, with almost all political parties making a concerted attempt to woo Christians.

Minorities have mostly leaned towards the DMK, but Vijay, being a Christian — his certificate name is C Joseph Vijay — has pushed the ruling party to walk the extra mile to keep intact the community's vote bank.

"All praise to Allah; praise the Lord; be confident. Good [things] will happen, and victory is assured," he said.

Quoting an incident narrated in the Old Testament of the Bible to take a dig at the DMK, Vijay said brothers grew jealous of a youth and threw him into a pit but the youth rose again, became king of that land, and saved not only that nation but also the brothers who betrayed him.

"There are many such interesting stories in the Bible. Those who haven't read them should read them. I don't think there is any need for me to specify whose story I just narrated," Vijay said.

Congress-led UDF welcomes 3 parties; 1 snubs offer

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE

- TMC Kerala unit, JRS, and KKC are joining UDF as associate members, announces V D Satheesan
- Says UDF leadership meeting on Monday approved it after all 3 parties expressed interest
- Hours later, KKC leader Vishnupuram Chandrasekharan clarifies that party not ready to join UDF

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala on Monday announced the decision to include three regional parties to the alliance. However, the leader of one of the parties announced that it had not decided to join the UDF.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan said that the Trinamool Congress' Kerala unit, led by former Left Front MLA P V Anvar; the Janadhipatya Rashtriya Sabha (JRS), led by tribal leader C K Janu; and the Kerala Kamaraj Congress (KKC), led by Vishnupuram Chandrasekharan, were joining the UDF as associate members.

"The JRS and the KKC were part of NDA, and Anvar was a two-time Left Front MLA. All three parties expressed their interest in working with the UDF, and the UDF leadership meeting on Monday approved it," he said.

Hardly an hour later, Chandrasekharan said the KKC had not decided to join the UDF, and had not given any such request to the UDF.

"The KKC is still a part of the NDA. It had some displeasure with the BJP leadership that was being sorted out by Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar. I had shared this with some senior Congress leaders. But I didn't make any request for including the KKC in the UDF," he said.

The KKC is the political arm of the Vaikunta Swamy Dharma Pracharanasabha (VSDP), which works for the welfare of the Nadar community — a key vote bank in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram.

Congress sources, however, said the KKC being offered an associate member position with limited rights made Chandrasekharan reject the UDF's decision. Satheesan also said the UDF was looking to win 100 seats in the 140-member Kerala Assembly in next year's elections.

Kerala doctors conduct surgery on road to save accident victim

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Three young doctors in Kerala are being praised for performing an emergency surgical procedure on the road using a razor blade and a straw, which saved the life of a youth injured in a road accident in Kochi.

Kottayam Government Medical College cardiac surgery wing Assistant Professor Dr B Manoop, and Kochi's Indira Gandhi Cooperative Hospital's Dr Thomas Peter and Dr Dhidiya K Thomas performed a surgical cricothyroidotomy — an emergency procedure to create an airway — on one Linu, hailing from Kollam, who sustained injuries in a road accident at Udayamperoor in Kochi on Sunday night.

Doctor-couple Thomas-Dhidiya and Manoop, who were passing by the area at the time of the accident, rushed to help the accident victim. Linu was struggling to breathe, which could lead to respiratory arrest due to blood clotting on the airway.

The three doctors decided to try their best on the spot. A police party that reached the spot and some local people also extended their help.

Telugu states brace for higher costs as Centre revises rural employment scheme

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The newly introduced VB–G RAM G Act, which replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is expected to impose a substantial financial burden on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana due to a new provision requiring states to bear 40% of the programme's expenditure.

Once the revised funding pattern into effect, Andhra Pradesh will likely have to pay nearly Rs 3,120 crore, placing significant additional strain on its finances.

Telangana, meanwhile, may have to pay approximately Rs 1,736 crore.

During 2024–25, Andhra Pradesh issued 65.36 lakh job cards, covering 1.14 crore registered workers. Telangana issued 51.96 lakh job cards, covering 1.06 crore registered workers, indicating a wide base of rural households potentially eligible for employment under the scheme in both states.

According to Chakradhar Budha of LibTech India, a Delhi-based organisation, the programme in Andhra Pradesh has shown strong representation from marginalised groups and women.

On average, each household in Andhra received 51.62 days of employment, a little over half of the legally guaranteed 100 days. The average rural wage stood at Rs 255.52 per day, among the highest in the country.

Notably, 5.09 lakh households in Andhra completed the full 100 days of wage employment during the year. The scheme also provided work to 76,584 differently-abled persons, demonstrating a measure of inclusive outreach.

In Telangana, of the 51.96 lakh job cards, 26.69 lakh households and 42.44 lakh individuals actually worked under MGNREGA during 2024–25, indicating lower utilisation compared to Andhra Pradesh.

The average employment per household was 45.82 days annually, below both the statutory limit and Andhra Pradesh's average. The state's average wage rate stood at 213.31 per day.

"Across both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, MGNREGA has functioned as a vital safety net for rural households, engaging crores of workers annually and providing steady wage support to women. The looming shift in the Centre–state cost-sharing formula is expected to sharply raise the financial burden on statesand could significantly affect the future implementation of the programme," Budha told *DH*.

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PM tour extends strategic outreach

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation tour of Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman was intended to strengthen India's relations with countries in a strategically important region. Relations with the Middle East have assumed greater importance because of the recent geopolitical shifts in the region resulting from US President Donald Trump's outreach. The US now has stronger relations with Pakistan. Trump's tariff war has prompted countries in the region to recalibrate mutual ties. India has traditionally had good relations in the region traced to political and economic reasons. The Narendra Modi government has taken these ties forward, with the attention going beyond the oil-producing nations. India's relations with Jordan and Ethiopia have to be seen in that context.

During Modi's visit to Ethiopia, his first to that country, both countries decided to upgrade their relations to a strategic partnership and envisaged improvement in trade, investment, and defence cooperation. They have found common ground in strengthening the African Union and promoting the interests of the Global South. Ethiopia has emerged from a civil war and is now focused on an international outreach. India has offered support to the African nation, which has recently been alienated from the US. It is also a member of the BRICS; India will host the grouping's 2026 meet under its chairship. Modi's visit to Jordan was the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to that country in 37 years, and it coincided with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. India is Jordan's fourth-largest trading partner, and the two countries have strong economic ties. During the visit, multiple agreements were signed to enhance cooperation across sectors and to improve the existing relationship.

Trade deal with Oman headlines a three-nation tour that deepens ties in West Asia and Africa

The most important outcome of the Prime Minister's tour was the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Oman, which will boost trade, jobs, and investment between the two countries. This is the second trade deal with a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country, after the agreement with the UAE, and it will help boost the efforts to expand India's access to the West Asian market. Under the agreement, Oman will provide India duty-free access to 98% of its tariff lines. India will give Oman concessions on 77.79% of its tariff lines. The agreement may enable Indian manufacturers to reroute goods to Africa and parts of Europe. It should also be seen as part of India's broader strategy to widen export destinations to reduce the impact of higher US tariffs.

Upper Bhadra and a promise on hold

When the Union government recently told the Lok Sabha that the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project is not a national project, it did more than contradict an earlier assurance. It revealed how political expediency can override parliamentary commitments, federal principles, and the legitimate needs of drought-prone regions. In February 2022, then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the High-Powered Steering Committee of the Central Water Commission had recommended national project status for the Upper Bhadra scheme, after a technical scrutiny by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. A year later, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, presenting the 2023 Budget on the eve of the Karnataka assembly elections, announced a Rs 5,300-crore grant to accelerate the project. Two years on, not a single paisa has been released. After the BJP's defeat in the 2023 state elections, the Centre has steadily retreated, now arguing that the project does not fall under any centrally sponsored scheme and, therefore, does not qualify for assistance. If the budget adopted by the Parliament does not bind the Union government, what does?

The Upper Bhadra Project is designed to provide irrigation, drinking water support, and groundwater recharge across taluks in Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Davanagere – regions long trapped in cycles of crop failure, distress migration, and fluoride contamination. Karnataka has maintained that the project uses water that is well within allocations made by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal. Why, then, the hesitation? Is the Centre wary of upsetting the Andhra Pradesh government, led by an important National Democratic Alliance partner, that has opposed certain aspects of the project?

Unreleased central funds expose political stakes that trump federal commitments

The implications go far beyond one irrigation project. Withholding funds announced on the floor of Parliament strikes at the sanctity of the budget itself. It weakens cooperative federalism by converting development assistance into a partisan instrument of reward and punishment. Karnataka, one of the country's largest contributors to the national exchequer, cannot be penalised for an electoral verdict that went against the BJP. The state was forced to approach the Supreme Court earlier to secure drought relief dues, and it has now made clear that the same route is being considered for Upper Bhadra. That a state must repeatedly knock on the doors of the judiciary to claim its rightful share signals a breakdown of institutional trust. This is not just a battle for water. It is a test of whether constitutional guarantees and parliamentary assurances still carry meaning once the ballots are counted.

REGULATED REFORM

AI and copyright: One licence, many problems

India's push for mandatory AI licensing promises cover for creators, but risks slowing down innovation

BHARATH REDDY AND MIHIR MAHAJAN

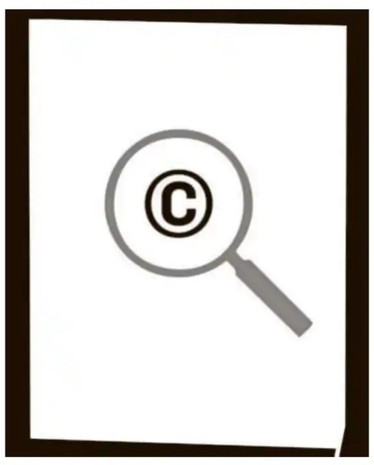
The working paper published by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) committee (which appears to lack representation from content creators that hold copyrights, as well as AI developers) aims to tackle copyright concerns arising from generative AI, specifically focusing on compensating creators. While the goal is noble, the heavy-handed approach threatens to stall innovation and ultimately fails the very creators it seeks to protect. India should adopt a market-driven approach that incorporates a text and data mining (TDM) opt-out mechanism for publicly accessible data and support commercial licensing agreements for proprietary datasets.

The DPIIT report is ambitiously titled 'One Nation One Licence One Payment'. It proposes a mandatory blanket licence that ensures that no Indian copyright holder can withhold their data from being used to train AI. Under this framework, a statutory remuneration for creators is proposed to be established. In practice, this involves setting up a Copyright Royalties Collective that would collect payments from AI companies and distribute them to creators. This centralisation is fraught with challenges.

The core issue lies with how AI models (including large language models) work. They are probabilistic engines, not databases. They work by predicting tokens based on billions of parameters tuned during training. It is impossible to say with certainty if, and by how much, a specific work contributed to a specific output. The task is comparable to determining which grain of sugar made a specific bite of Mysore Pak sweet.

By mandating licence requirements, the policy misses the main point of copyright. The goal of copyright law is to promote human creativity by offering protection, so that "copycats" cannot steal with impunity. However, AI models are not copycats – while data is used for training, AI models seldom regurgitate the training data and therefore, are not direct competitors and do not necessarily reduce the market for specific pieces of copyrighted content. While AI-generated content competes as a whole with human content, it is non-specific to a particular creator, unless there is style mimicking.

There is also a problem of attributability, when similar content from multiple sources is part of the training data. Larger aggregators will eventually dominate small, high-quality creators due to the volume of their content. The report also admits this difficulty in attributability and proposes a flat rate as a proportion of global revenue. However, how can a fair rate be arrived at that represents the value of Indian datasets in the overall training data, and who gets what share of the revenue? These are very difficult issues to address.



The idea that a single government-mandated body can determine an appropriate royalty rate (for AI model developers) and a revenue split (for content creators) goes against the core economic tenet of price discovery through the market mechanism that can produce high value for all stakeholders. Policies must be judged on outcomes, not intentions. On that front, this policy fares rather poorly.

The report aims to make it easier for startups and small companies to build AI models by mandating blanket licences and charging royalties based on a fraction of global revenue. This is bound to fail for many reasons.

First, some AI model developers might choose to exit the Indian market, leading to less competition in the market. Many of them are burning cash without a viable path to profitability. The proposed framework also requires developers to disclose training datasets in detail. Barring a few open AI models, companies rarely disclose this data, as it is an ingredient of their secret recipe. Forcing these measures would slow the pace of innovation and adoption in India to a suboptimal state for creators, developers, and users alike.

Second, global AI model developers may choose not to train on Indian datasets with such a mandatory licensing arrangement. This creates a scenario where AI systems are powerful generally, but perform poorly when addressing India-specific issues or understanding Indian cultural or social nuances. We risk importing models that don't understand us.

Third, smaller, high-quality content creators still receive the short end of the stick. Large aggregators will fill up the licence pool, ensuring they capture the bulk of the royalties. We see an example in the music streaming industry, where royalties from streaming providers fail to add up to a living wage for most artists.

Lastly, India stands to make significant productivity gains through the diffusion of AI. These benefits come from building applications that solve for India, even if the underlying models are not Indian. This is a gradual process where AI applications are adopted across sectors of the economy. In a bid to address compensation for creators, competition across the ecosystem and the pace of adoption of downstream applications will suffer.

The alternative

Technology platforms have disrupted conventional distribution and monetisation channels for content; generative AI further complicates it. The creator economy is facing a crisis globally and will need to rethink business models. The solution for creators might lie in increasing meaningful direct engagement with their consumers rather than obscure government-mediated royalties. Kevin Kelly's concept of "1,000 True Fans", each of whom is willing to pay a subscription fee, is one such pathway. Discoverability on AI platforms will be key to this, and creators will want AI to find them.

Nasscom's dissenting comments in the report provide a reasonable alternate pathway. "For content that is publicly accessible online, rights-holders should be able to reserve their works from TDM through a machine-readable opt-out, at the point of availability. For content that is not publicly accessible, rights-holders should be able to reserve their works from TDM through contract or licence terms".

Regulation is still evolving globally on this issue. It would be prudent not to shackle a nascent industry with heavy regulation.

(The writers are researchers with the Takshashila Institution)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A pilgrimage for Pelé

In 1977, seeing the world's greatest footballer meant travelling miles — just to watch him on TV

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

As the football stadium mayhem in Kolkata played out on the television screen, my grandson was incredulous. "You mean to say thousands came just to see Messi, even when he was not playing himself?" I said yes, for football heroes, it is normal. This hero-worship was something my Gen Z boy could only associate with rock stars. After some discussion I had to tell him that I had also undertaken a 'pilgrimage' to (then) Calcutta in 1977 to see another 'great' footballer, Pelé.

I hid the next part of the tale, however, for he would have thought that his grandpa was nuts. The trip to Kolkata was not to see Pelé play live but to watch the match on television!

We, a bunch of pilot officers, had been despatched after commissioning to Air Force Station Kalaikunda (KKD), located 150 km from Kolkata (Cal). The combination of the newly acquired freedom and the thousand-odd rupees pay in our bank was heady, resulting in escapades at the drop of a hat. In came the news that THE Pelé was coming to Cal for a match on September 24 between his NY Cosmos team and Mohun Bagan.

Remember, we are talking about 1977 – no personal phones and travel agents, so getting tickets was impossible. There was no television set in KKD's Officers Mess, as Door Darshan's signal did not reach there. There was, however, a senior officer who had one television in storage – the word spread that his squadron would watch the match on it at some picnic spot closer to Cal, where the signal was available. But what about us?

Well, Pelé's *darshan* had to be done. Two of my friends and I decided to go to Fort William, the huge army establishment in Kolkata, and stay at any army mess that had a television. And this is exactly what we did a day before the match. In the evening, a stroll in the bustling New Market area showed that Pelé mania had gripped Cal, with posters and buntings everywhere. Suddenly, a rumour that Pelé had stepped out of the Oberoi Grand almost caused a stampede as people made a hysterical rush towards the hotel.

Match day arrived. The TV room in the Army Mess was packed with officers and families; we, outsiders, managed to get our foot in. The stadium erupted when Pelé entered the field, and every time he touched the football – which was not often, as he seemed to be protecting himself. And then, halfway, the television started smoking. In those days, every television set had a voltage regulator box that had to be manually operated to keep voltage within limits. With Pelé on the television screen, who would look at the voltage regulator screen? In front of us, the TV tube melted.

And so ended my Pelé *darshan*; the radio told us later that the match was a 2-2 draw. But for the 22-year-old me, Pele's *darshan* was done, courtesy of a television set!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Govt should rethink delivery of welfare measures

This refers to your editorial 'Weed out ineligible BPL card holders' (Dec 22). There are more BPL card holders than there are poor people. The government must undertake a drive to identify bogus BPL card holders. While such a measure will entail resistance and law-and-order issues, the drive is important to ensure that benefits reach the deserving. One criterion for BPL eligibility is an annual income below Rs 1.2 lakh, but 60-70% of card holders likely exceed this and it is almost impossible to accurately assess the incomes of small business owners and those working in the unorganised sector. Perhaps it is time to reconsider the BPL distinction and provide ration cards to all citizens as was the case earlier. The government should reconsider the delivery of welfare schemes and freebies.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Transparency is key

I refer to 'Weed out ineligible BPL card holders' (Dec 22). The editorial highlights how ineligible beneficiaries neutralise BPL programmes. Transparency is needed to make government services effective.

Swetha G, Bengaluru

Art should be free

Apropos 'Deplorable attack on spirit of cinema' (Dec 22), film festivals promote diversity and artistic freedom. Refusing censorship exemptions to several internationally screened films raises concerns about government interference in cultural spaces. The decision reflects a misuse of authority and lack of informed judgment.

Tia Sapam, Bengaluru

Good measure

Apropos 'New BIS rules to end hospital billing woes, herald transparency' (Dec 22), principle, not paperwork, defines this reform's significance. Hospitals have an ethical obligation to provide transparent financial information, especially when patients are vulnerable. Providing patients with access to transparent financial information is an imperative, not a favour.

Parvathy Prakash, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, my party was promised two Lok Sabha seats and an RS berth. However, we got only one LS seat, which we won. I am grateful to PM Modi who made me the Union Minister. But our Rajya Sabha berth promise remains unfulfilled... We will walk out of NDA if that is not done.

Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister

The bonds of friendship dwindle with age... But a little blackmail lasts forever.

Stephen Hunt

TO BE PRECISE

BJP cornered 85% of political donations last year

IN PERSPECTIVE

Aravalli beyond a flawed definition

SC ruling undermines the established ecosystem-centric approach and environmental jurisprudence

NIKHIL ERINJINGAT AND RIHAB RAHMAN

Nature is neutral and indifferent to definitions. Over billions of years, millions of species have gone extinct, and new ones have emerged. Human beings are merely a blip in the larger scheme of natural existence. Nature always survives; humanity might not. Yet, the Supreme Court's recent acceptance of the new definition of the Aravalli Hills reduces a living and historical ecosystem to a matter of definition. While the definition is irrelevant to the Aravalli themselves, it has an irreparable impact on humans and Indian enviro-constitutional jurisprudence.

On the face of it, the Supreme Court's decision seems modest. The Court accepted an expert committee-recommended uniform definition to put an end to inconsistent definitions of the Aravalli Range across states and consequent illegal mining activities. The new definition includes landforms more than 100 metres above local relief as "Aravalli Hills", and hills within 500 m of each other are clustered into "ranges". This excludes a significant portion of the Aravalli landscape from the operational definition, thereby subjecting these areas to ordinary regulatory regimes rather than heightened constitutional protection, even as existing legal mining continues pending further ecological assessment.

The Court, in its judgment, repeatedly acknowledges India's obligations under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and several landmark judgments on environmental protection through constitutional obligations under Article 21, Article 48A, and Article 51A(g). But the heart of the controversy is not the definition, but the Supreme Court's shifting of environmental protection from an ecosystem approach to a contour-based one. The Court viewed ecological protection from an administrative, instead of a constitutional, perspective.

The Court cites its precedents, such as the *M C Mehta* case, where it pioneered environmental protection by reading it into the fundamental right to life. The Court incorporated sustainable development, precautionary principle, and polluter-pays principle in its interpretation of the right to environment, not because the rivers, mountains, and forests met a defined criterion, but because of what they did – sustain life, maintain ecological balance, and secure conditions for dignified human existence.

However, the Aravalli were treated differently: while acknowledged as a continuous geological system in principle, constitutional protection was operationalised through definitional thresholds rather than ecosystem function.

The public trust doctrine laid down by the Supreme Court in *M C Mehta v. Kamal Nath* rests on the basis that the State is holding natural resources in trust for people, including future generations. Similarly, the Supreme Court in *M K Ranjitsinh v. Union of India* (2024) dealt with the issue of saving the Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered bird, from collision with overhead power lines. The Court, while balancing development with environmental protection, recognised the right against the adverse effects of climate change. It has embraced precautionary principles in its earlier judgments, which rest on the logic that when dealing with complex ecological systems, uncertainty caused by human actions calls for restraint and not experimentation.

Even if the Supreme Court's intervention in the past to protect key ecological hotspots has been episodic, the Court treated environmental protection holistically by applying internationally recognised principles. The Aravalli judgment marks a recalibration of its environmental jurisprudence, shifting emphasis from ecosystem-centric constitutional protection towards administrative regulation. Prioritising administrative categorisations and standardisation over ecological functions and principles articulated by the Supreme Court itself represents doctrinal regression.

Climate and the new vulnerabilities

Climate change is no longer abstract or a future threat; its impacts are experienced locally through rising temperature, declining groundwater levels, and unpredictable weather patterns – the consequences that will follow the degradation of the Aravalli Hills. The lack of a natural barrier against the expansion of the Thar desert would lead to desertification, reduce groundwater recharge, raise local temperatures, adversely impact the carbon sink through the soil system, and reduce forest cover. All this in the already environmentally harsh regions of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi will make human existence undignified, vulnerable, and fragile.

The Supreme Court need not abandon the expert recommendation but adhere to a robust environmental jurisprudence developed in earlier decisions. While the definition is regulatory and defines the Aravalli for administrative purposes, the constitutional and environmental protection of the Range needs to be governed by principles of public trust doctrine, sustainable development, and the precautionary principle.

To that end, the Court should ensure continued constitutional oversight by requiring transparent compliance reporting and retaining the ability to intervene where statutory or constitutional obligations are diluted. In an era where climate change is a reality, definitional minimalism is harmful.

(Nikhil is an assistant professor at the Alliance School of Law; Rihab is a law student at the institution)

Thiruvananthapuram win an early test of BJP's urban strategy in Kerala

SREENATH NAIR

Thiruvananthapuram has spent decades behaving like Kerala's political handwriting. It has been legible and, even in moments of anger, predictable. That is why the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA's breakthrough in the state capital's local body election lands with the force of an unfamiliar signature.

In the 101-ward Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, the NDA won 50 wards. The CPI(M)-led LDF won 29, and the Congress-led UDF 19. Two wards went to Independents. The NDA finished one seat shy of the 51-mark in a full-strength council. Still, it emerged as the dominant bloc in a city that had been, for 45 years, the Left's and the Congress's prestigious municipal address.

This distinction matters because Kerala's urban politics is often decided less by sweeping waves than by the geometry of vote splits. A party can be ideologically polarising state-wide and still be electorally efficient at the ward level. This is especially true in a three-cornered contest where the UDF and the LDF continue to cannibalise each other's margins. In this context, the NDA's 50 is best read as a map made of many small victories rather than one large conversion.

This was not a lightning strike, as the same election delivered a strong state-wide showing for the UDF. The Congress-led front secured control of four of Kerala's six corporations, and the LDF held on to Kozhikode and lost Thiruvananthapuram. It suggests that Kerala's electorate is not moving in a single direction. It is reallocating power with a kind of tactical mood. The people are rewarding performance and punishing inaction alike.

Larger footprint

Now, consider the BJP's longer game. It has rarely been about sudden state-wide dominance in Kerala and more about making the map look different, one local unit at a time. Even in the 2025 local-body results beyond the capital, the NDA's footprint expanded in measurable ways. One summary of the results notes the NDA winning 1,919 wards state-wide, up from 1,597 in 2020. Another Kerala election analysis points out that the BJP secured 93 wards in corporations across the state this time (including the 50 in Thiruvananthapuram), compared with 59 in 2020. These are not the numbers of a party "about to run Kerala." They are the numbers of a party that is learning how to stop being ornamental.

Thiruvananthapuram, in that sense, is less a trophy and more a template. It is because capital cities are uniquely replicable political machines. They contain, in compressed form, the problems and aspirations that other corporations also manage. In the immediate aftermath of the result, even local civic and business groups framed "expectations" around stalled projects. All this, they argue, will happen in "alignment" with the Union government. That alignment argument, fair or not, travels well to other urban centres where citizens want the boring things to work.

The BJP's challenge, of course, is that Kerala's cities are not identical organisms. They are different social coalitions with different anxieties. Coastal wards vote with a set of grievances like erosion, seawater intrusion, and a suspicion of "development" that arrives without protection. Inner-city wards are vexed with another set of issues. A party attempting replication must therefore export not a slogan but a method. Identify the dominant local grievance and avoid actions that turn a municipal race into an identity referendum.

On candidate strategy, the capital offers cues. The BJP did not just rely only on its brand. It also invested in recognisable faces and credibility cues. This was visible in high-profile wards such as Sasthamangalam, where BJP candidate and ex-DGP R Sreelekha won. This is a familiar BJP tactic. In Kerala, it carries an extra utility. It reframes the vote as a choice about competence rather than ideology.

Left's story

The other half of the story is the Left's introspection. A defeat of this scale tends to produce two reactions: denial in public and diagnosis in private. You can already see a version of that in the post-result chatter around leadership and complacency. Whether the LDF interprets this loss as a one-off urban setback or as a warning will shape how easy replication becomes for the BJP.

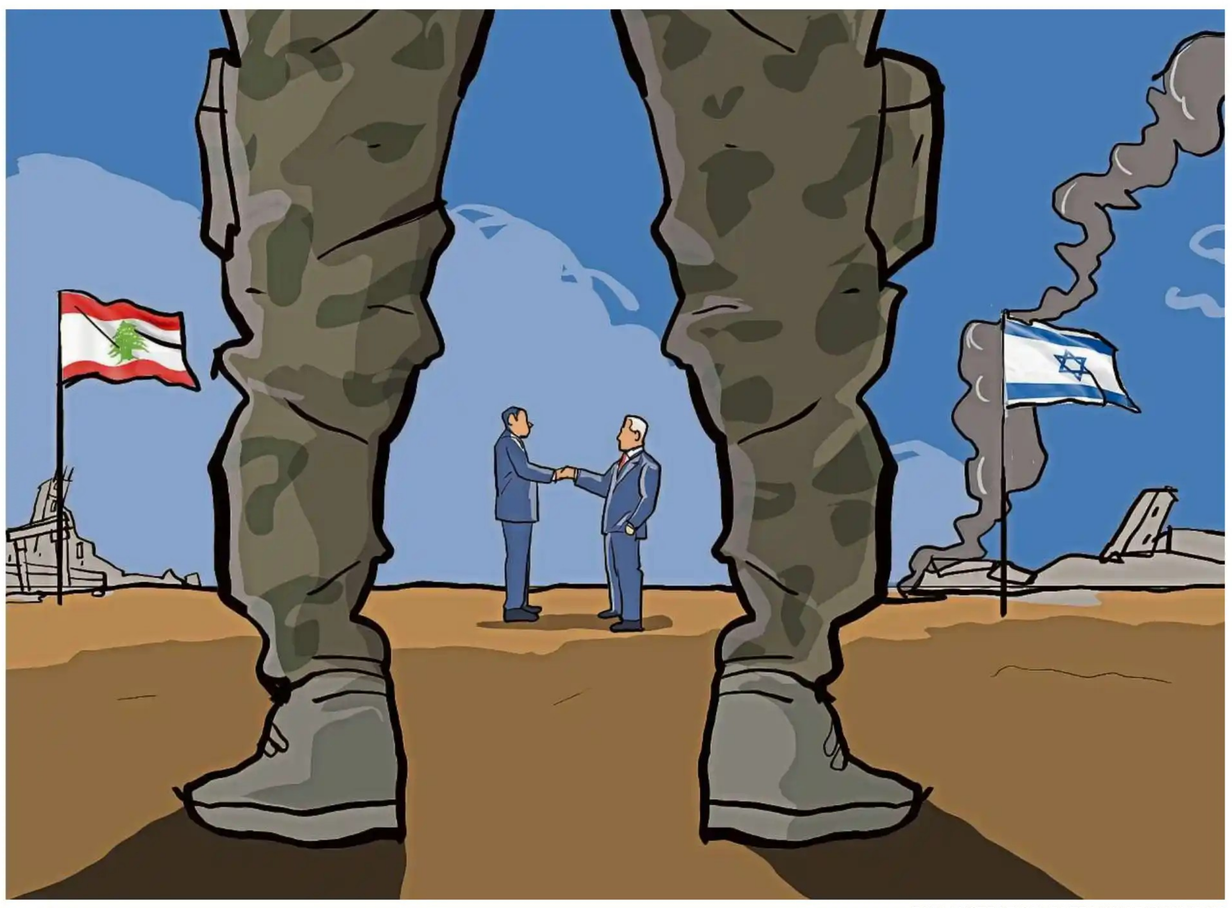
So what does "replication" look like in practical electoral terms? It looks like targeting corporations where the BJP can plausibly become the largest bloc even without an outright majority. It looks like identifying wards where the UDF-LDF contest is tight enough that a disciplined third player can win with a stable base plus marginal additions. And it looks like persuading voters that the BJP is not merely "a message to the state government" but a workable municipal option.

Thiruvananthapuram is the kind of place where political myths are made and broken easily. The NDA's 50 wards are not the end of a story. It is the beginning of a strategy that other corporations, watching their own angry drain water after the next monsoon, may find easier to imagine.

(The writer is a journalist-turned-communications professional based in Bengaluru)

The Lebanese militant group has resisted calls to lay down all its arms, risking a return to war with Israel

AARON BOXERMAN, EUAN WARD, NATAN ODENHEIMER AND HWAIDA SAAD



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Hezbollah is down, but not out

Lebanon's government made a commitment a year ago to disarm Hezbollah, after a ceasefire ended a yearlong conflict between Israel and the powerful Lebanese paramilitary group. But the pace of disarmament has frustrated Israeli and US officials, and despite the truce, the Israeli military has bombed what it says are Hezbollah targets on a near-daily basis.

Though Hezbollah says it has pulled back its armed fighters from the area near Israel's border, and lost much of its arsenal during the war, Israeli and US officials say the group is attempting to rebuild. That is raising the possibility of a renewed Israeli offensive.

Envoys from Israel and Lebanon met for direct talks this past week for the second time this month, a rare encounter held under the auspices of a US-led ceasefire monitoring committee established after the war. US officials have said they want the Lebanese government to disarm Hezbollah by the end of the year, but it is not clear if it can.

On December 20, Nawaf Salam, the Lebanese prime minister, said the government was "days away" from finishing a process of disarmament south of the Litani River, long seen as a key dividing line in Lebanon, and then would turn its attention to the rest of the country.

Moving too fast without concessions from Israel — including an end to its attacks and withdrawal from Lebanese territory — also poses risks for Lebanon internally, Lebanese analysts say. Hezbollah is not just a militia; it is also a political party in the Lebanese parliament, with deep roots in the country's Shiite Muslim community. The possibility of a return to war depends in part on how much Hezbollah has rearmed and regrouped since the end of the war.

What is left of Hezbollah?

Hezbollah began firing drones and rockets into Israel after the October 7, 2023, assault on southern Israel, which was led by its Palestinian ally, Hamas, and ignited the war in the Gaza Strip. As fighting between Hezbollah and Israel escalated, more than one million people in Lebanon fled their homes, Israeli border communities became ghost towns, and at least 4,000 were killed, mostly in Lebanon.

Backed by Iran, Hezbollah grew so powerful over the years that it eclipsed Lebanon's own military, with sophisticated weaponry and thousands of battle-hardened fighters. Its arsenal, believed to include scores of guided missiles, was central to the militia's self-styled role as Lebanon's defender against Israel, which has attacked the country many times over the past 50 years.

But the group was battered by the recent conflict, losing thousands of fighters and its revered leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated by Israel.

Since then, Hezbollah has not substantially rebuilt its forces in southern Lebanon, close to the border with Israel, according to officials from Israel, Lebanon and the United Nations. The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive subject.

Hezbollah has said it no longer maintains an "armed presence" south of the Litani River. Israeli officials argue that Hezbollah was only driven from that area because of Israel's vigilance. It has bombarded Lebanon on a near-daily basis since the ceasefire and still occupies several sites inside Lebanese territory, despite having initially agreed to withdraw.

North of the Litani, however, Hezbollah's forces remain entrenched, the Israeli and Lebanese officials said. In June, the Israeli military bombed what it said were underground factories near Beirut where Hezbollah was trying to build drones. And, last month, Israeli fighter jets bombed an apartment near Beirut, assassinating Haytham Ali Tabatabai, Hezbollah's top military commander.

But Hezbollah's efforts to rearm have faced challenges, as the regional alliance that backed it has crumbled.

Iran, Hezbollah's main patron, sustained heavy blows from Israel during a 12-day-war in June. It has still managed to funnel tens of millions of dollars to the group since January, largely through a network of informal money handlers in Lebanon, according to the US Treasury Department. But analysts say that is not enough to cover all of Hezbollah's costs.

And Bashar Assad, its ally in Syria, was deposed last year, severing a key supply line that Hezbollah used to smuggle in money and weapons.

Naim Kassem, the group's leader, argued in a televised speech last weekend that full disarmament was out of the question for the time being. "This would mean taking away the power of the resistance," Kassem said. "This is an American-Israeli demand."

Talal Atrissi, a Lebanon-based analyst close to Hezbollah, said the group was "attempting to build capabilities" even as Israel continued to attack its members.

"We are in a race between building capabilities and considering war on the one hand, and between preventing war and finding solutions for Lebanon on the other," Atrissi said.

Will Israel escalate?

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, has suggested he would prefer that Lebanon disarm Hezbollah, rather than see a return to war. But since Hamas' surprise attack in October 2023, Israel has sought to nip any regional threats in the bud.

"The lesson of October 7 became Israel's new security doctrine: We don't turn a blind eye to emerging threats," said Tamir Hayman, a former Israeli military intelligence chief. "The idea is it's better to risk an escalation while your enemy is weak rather than wait until it gets stronger."

Hayman argued that the Lebanese government had not moved quickly enough to exploit the "window of opportunity" to disarm Hezbollah. A new Israeli military campaign, he said, might offer Lebanon's government more time and momentum by weakening Hezbollah further.

Joseph Aoun, the Lebanese president, and Salam, the prime minister, say their government is working to disarm Hezbollah as fast as possible. But by continuing to bombard Lebanon, Lebanese officials and analysts argue, Israel is bolstering Hezbollah's resistance narrative and giving the group justification to cling to its arms.

The Lebanese government is desperate to get its hands on the billions of dollars in financial aid dangled by Western and Gulf nations if they can successfully disarm Hezbollah. To do that, they say, the country's US-backed military needs more resources and funding from international donors.

"We want to extend our authority over all our territory," Salam said in an interview in August with *The New York Times*.

The US military said Lebanese soldiers had removed nearly 10,000 rockets and about 400 missiles as part of the government's disarmament initiative, which covers Hezbollah and other smaller armed Palestinian factions.

The Lebanese government is keen to demonstrate that its efforts to disarm Hezbollah are proving effective. During US-brokered meetings with Israeli officials in December, Lebanese military officers showed video of their forces raiding weapons sites, according to a UN official.

The UN official and one of the Israeli officials also said that Israel had shared some intelligence with the Lebanese military to help identify buildings where Hezbollah has weapons caches.

That kind of cooperation is rare, but while Lebanon and Israel remain deeply mistrustful of one another, they see a joint interest in working to quash Hezbollah, said Lina Khatib, a visiting scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The New York Times

The limits of India's consumer protection

PAVITHRA RAJASEKARAN, POLAKI MYTHRI AND MAYA K

The RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme received over 13.3 lakh consumer complaints in FY 2024-2025, a 13.5% increase from the previous year. These complaints were mainly related to digital banking, credit card, and cyber-fraud cases. As a result, the Supreme Court classified banking negligence and delayed refunds as a "deficiency of service." Thousands of victims continue to face protracted delays and procedural hurdles, despite the availability of digital grievance portals. The National Consumer Helpline received more than 18,000 complaints in just two and a half months of 2025, resulting in reimbursements exceeding Rs 8 crore. India's consumer protection laws have evolved from a disjointed system into a rights-based, digitally enabled regime. However, this change remains incomplete. National Consumer Day, observed on December 24, offers an opportunity to reflect on the adequacy of consumer empowerment in a $4-trillion, digitally saturated economy.

Before 1986, consumer protection in India was fragmented across statutes such as the Indian Contract Act, the Sale of Goods Act, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act -- none of which recognised consumers as rights-bearing citizens. Redress mechanisms were complex and inaccessible, awareness was limited beyond urban centres, and despite widespread unfair trade practices, fewer than 5,000 consumer disputes were filed annually. This reflected systemic under-recognition and weak institutional response.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, marked a democratic shift in India's market governance by granting consumers legal recognition and enforceable rights. It codified six core consumer rights and established a three-tier redress mechanism which, despite early capacity constraints and modest disposal rates, expanded access to justice through its informal and accessible design. Post-1991 liberalisation enlarged and diversified markets, reshaping consumer behaviour through branded goods, digital platforms, and private services. Reflecting this shift, 1.72 lakh complaints were registered with the National Consumer Helpline in 2015–2016, while disposal rates exceeded 85% by 2018 following awareness initiatives such as *Jago Grahak Jago*. These gains, however, remained uneven and skewed towards urban areas. The Consumer Protection Act (2019) further modernised the framework by strengthening e-commerce regulation, product liability, and enforcement through the Central Consumer Protection Authority, mediation mechanisms, revised jurisdictional thresholds, and digital platforms such as e-Daakhil.

These reforms have produced measurable outcomes. By late 2025, the National Consumer Helpline had received more than 1.42 million grievances. In July 2025, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission recorded a disposal rate of 122%, with several states exceeding complete disposal. Tamil Nadu led with a disposal rate of 277%. Over two lakh users, including non-resident Indians, accessed digital grievance platforms, and more than 2.5 lakh cases were filed online. AI-enabled helplines and upgraded consumer awareness applications have further simplified access to redress.

These headline numbers, however, mask deeper structural weaknesses. Consumer awareness has not kept pace with rising grievance reporting: over 90% of consumers remain unaware of complaint-filing procedures, and fewer than 11% know the rights guaranteed under the Consumer Protection Act. This knowledge gap disproportionately affects the uneducated and economically disadvantaged, turning grievance tracking into reactive governance without genuine empowerment.

Institutional capacity remains equally strained. By mid-2025, consumer redressal bodies faced 518 member vacancies, with 218 of 685 district commissions operating without a president. Such deficits increase pendency, delay justice, and risk eroding public trust. While digitalisation can improve efficiency, it cannot substitute adjudicators; reform without parallel investments in staffing and governance risks hollowing out the system. Consumer vulnerability has further intensified in digital markets; only 16% of citizens are aware of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, despite its recognition of key data rights.

Corporate compliance remains a major enforcement challenge. In October 2025, the FSSAI prohibited beverages from using the term "ORS" unless they met Who standards, a move widely welcomed as pro-consumer. However, the Delhi High Court's interim order permitting the sale of existing stock diluted its immediate impact, revealing persistent tensions between regulatory authority and corporate power. Consumer protection requires sustained investment in institutional capacity, aggressive consumer literacy embedded within formal education, and consistent enforcement.

(Pavithra is an independent researcher; Mythri is a student and Maya is an assistant professor at the department of economics, Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Terrorists land in Algiers

Algiers, December 22.
Guerillas today released all hostages they brought with them from Vienna aboard an Australian airliner except the 11 Ministerial heads of Arab delegations to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Algerian news agency reported. The DC-9 airliner carrying six terrorists and 41 hostages landed at Algiers airport at 4-05 p.m. IST today. The terrorists and hostages started leaving the plane ten minutes later. A terrorist who had been shot in the stomach by one of his colleagues by mistake was driven away in an ambulance.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Militants raid Red Fort, kill 3

New Delhi, Dec 22 (PTI)
Two days after the Centre extended the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir beyond Ramzan, a two-member suicide squad of the Pakistan-based militant outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba tonight stormed the Red Fort here, killing three armymen, in their first strike of its kind in the national capital. The fidayeen barged into the Fort at around 2140 hours and fired indiscriminately from automatic weapons, killing two members of the Rajputana Rifles on the spot. Another Rajputana Rifles personnel was seriously wounded and succumbed on way to hospital.

OASIS | KANDASWAMY GNANAMURTHY

Facing mortality and embracing the end

What is common between the legendary figures Ramana Maharshi and Richard Feynman? Apart from the fact that they are both dead, it is their outlook on death that bears a common thread.

When Ramana was 16, a sudden, violent fear of death arose within him for no apparent reason. Instead of panicking, he lay down and said to himself, "Now death has come; what does it mean? What is meant by dying? This body dies." That was his starting point on his journey in spirituality.

The theoretical physicist and Nobel laureate Richard Feynman addressed the issue from his scientific outlook. "Death must be interesting to go through, step by step, to know what happens next." It was marked by his desire to understand it scientifically.

Those who lack the initiation into spirituality or an interest in deep science look at death from a different angle.

I have this neighbour whom I used to come across frequently. I didn't see him for several months, and then one day I saw him in a wheelchair near the gate of a kindergarten. I stopped by and enquired after his obviously fragile health. Without a hint of despair, he said he was suffering from a terminal disease.

We started talking. His attitude to life was a great lesson for me. He said, "When you see the end of life, you would be surprised at the learning about the world looking at small children. Their fresh and guileless face and whereabouts tell you it may be the end of the day for you, but not for the world, which will keep going. Don't you remember you yourself gave such gleeful hope to your grandparents when you were young?

And then look at the just-blossomed flower which opens inside out shamelessly. Though all these are for the hovering bee and chain of plant life, you can enjoy looking at its freshness. It doesn't exhibit any hint of impending gloom that it will be gone by the evening. It doesn't also seem to be jealous of the neighbouring small buds ready to blossom the next day.

The height of the experience for him and me was a three-year-old who ran by us and kissed his sagging cheek and ran away in a jiffy. What did the child see in him? The flower or nature is not selective in offering goodness. It is for the beholder to derive the best.

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

National Herald case: HC seeks Gandhis' reply on ED plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Delhi High Court on Monday sought responses from Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others on a plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a trial court order that refused to take cognisance of its chargesheet in the National Herald case.

Justice Ravinder Dudeja, sitting as a single judge, issued notice to the Gandhis and other respondents on the main petition as well as on the ED's application seeking a stay on the trial court's December 16 order. The lower court had held that taking cognisance of the agency's complaint was "impermissible in law" as it was not founded on a First Information Report (FIR).

The High Court has posted the matter for further hearing on March 12, 2026.

The court also sought responses from Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari.

Appearing for the ED, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended that trial court's view had gone "horribly wrong" and that the order would have wider implications affecting other cases as well. He submitted that after completing an investigation, ED officials gather evidence and material.

The agency claimed that grave allegations had been levelled against the Gandhis and others, which could not be brushed aside lightly by relying on judicial precedents to conclude that the essential ingredients of the alleged criminal offences were lacking.

BJP-MGP alliance wins Goa ZP polls

PANAJI, PTI: The BJP-MGP alliance managed to win a majority of seats in the Goa Zilla Panchayat polls, the results of which were declared on Monday.

The two parties won more than 30 of the 50 ZP seats in the state, while the Congress emerged victorious on 10 seats and the AAP and Revolutionary Goans Party on one each. Four independent candidates also won in the polls, voting for which was held on December 20.

Hailing the victory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, said, "Goa stands with good governance. Goa stands with progressive politics. I thank my sisters and brothers of Goa for blessing the BJP-MGP (NDA) family with strong support in the Zilla Panchayat elections"

"This will add more vigour to our efforts for Goa's growth. We are committed to boosting the dreams and aspirations of the people of this wonderful state. Our hardworking NDA Karyakartas have done commendable work on the ground, which has led to this result," the PM further said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant took to X to thank people in the state for placing their trust in the BJP and blessing the party with a thumping victory.

In Kashmir's roadless villages, midwives still bring babies into world

Institutional deliveries remain low at 86% in rural areas, reflecting reliance on midwives

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In the roadless, snowbound hamlets of Kashmir, childbirth still begins far from hospitals, ambulances, or official records. It begins with a quiet knock on a door or a hurried call to a 'warieen'—the local midwife—whose hands have guided generations into the world.

Despite decades of healthcare expansion, these traditional birth attendants remain the lifeline for villages cut off by mountains and winter snow.

Two or three generations ago, doctors and nurses were distant figures, often hours away on treacherous roads. Women gave birth at home, relying on midwives like Taja Begum and Rehti Begum. Their only tools were experience, mustard oil, and a sharp blade.

"I learnt midwifery from my mother," recalls Taja Begum, 81, from a remote village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. "I no longer deliver babies; women today opt for cesarean to avoid labour pain. But in my day, I assisted many births, and the money I earned helped my family survive."

Rehti Begum (87) from Lolab valley in the Kupwara district, has been assisting deliveries for over fifty years.

"There are countless moments etched in my memory," she says. "I know when a birth will be smooth and when it is not. If I see danger, I advise going to the hospital immediately." Her judgement, honed over decades, has saved countless lives.

Traditional birth attendants remain the lifeline for villages cut off by mountains and winter snow

CHILDBIRTH

- **According to the** National Family Health Survey, 92.4% of births in J&K now take place in healthcare institutions—a remarkable improvement from 85.5%
- **In rural areas,** institutional deliveries remain slightly lower at 86%

Modern hospitals and schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana have increased institutional deliveries in Kashmir, reducing maternal and infant mortality. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21), 92.4% of births in Jammu and Kashmir now take place in healthcare institutions—a remarkable improvement from the 85.5% recorded in NFHS-4.

In rural areas, where roads and winters continue to challenge access, institutional deliveries remain slightly lower at 86%, reflecting the persistent reliance on traditional midwives.

Yet terrain and weather remain formidable barriers. In winter, many villages in Kupwara, Bandipora, and other districts have no road access or are cut off by snow, making hospital journeys impossible. Here, 'warieens' act as first responders, assisting normal deliveries, managing labour, and providing postnatal care.

Government health officials report successful deliveries with the help of 'warieens'. A gynaecologist at a health facility in Bandipora says, "In 2025, nearly two dozen deliveries were assisted by traditional midwives. Both mothers and babies are healthy."

Yet, these midwives remain largely invisible to the formal healthcare system. Concerns over hygiene, complications, and lack of formal training persist. Many 'warieens' have adapted, using clean delivery kits, encouraging antenatal check-ups, and liaising informally with ASHA workers. Some even accompany women to hospitals, offering continuity of care and emotional support that rushed wards often cannot provide.

Beyond childbirth, they advise women on nutrition, spacing pregnancies, and postnatal recovery.

BJP donations surge as Congress, others see slide

EC reports reveal sharp funding gap in 2024-25

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Many of the major parties, including the Congress, saw a decline in the donations they received in 2024-25 compared to the previous fiscal, even as the ruling BJP garnered the maximum amount, according to contribution and audit reports submitted by parties to the Election Commission (EC).

The last quarter of 2023-24 and the first quarter of 2024-25 coincided with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in April-May, and parties received more donations during this period.

Parties like the Congress, Trinamool Congress, YSR Congress, BJD, TDP, and the BRS saw a decline in donations they received in 2024-25, while the likes of the BJP, JD(U), Samajwadi Party, and the CPI(ML)L saw a rise in donations.

While the BJP got Rs 6,088 crore donations in 2024-25 against Rs 3,967 crore in 2023-24, a 53% rise, the Congress saw its donations decline from Rs 1,129.66 crore to Rs 522.13 crore. The total donations include those given by Electoral Trusts to parties.

The BJP's donations were 12 times that of the Congress, which saw Rahul Gandhi giving Rs 2.3 lakh, P Chidambaram Rs 3 crore, Priyanka Gandhi Rs 2.3 lakh and K C Venugopal Rs 1.90 lakh to their party.

While the BJP has submitted its Contribution Report, its audit report is not available on the EC website.

The Congress audit report for 2024-25 showed it spent Rs 1,111.94 crore, of which Rs 896.22 crore was on elections. The expenditure included Rs 147.2 crore for aircraft and helicopters, and Rs 451.27 crore for publicity through electronic media.

The TMC's donations dwindled from Rs 646.39 crore to Rs 184.08 crore, while its total expenditure was Rs 227.59 crore, of which election expenditure accounted for Rs 137.58 crore.

The YSR Congress' donations declined to Rs 140.05 crore from Rs 184.11 crore, while its election expenditure was Rs 299.92 crore, including Rs 2.14 crore spent on star campaigners.

The TDP saw donations sliding to Rs 85.20 crore from Rs 274.65 crore. Andhra Chief Minister and party supremo N Chandrababu Naidu donated Rs 99,999, as did TDP heir apparent Nara Lokesh.

Meanwhile, the BJD's report showed a decline to Rs 60 crore from Rs 245.5 crore.

The BJD spent Rs 270.66 crore for elections in 2024-25, including Rs 6.02 crore for pre-poll surveys and Rs 2.25 crore for post-poll surveys.

The CPI(ML)L saw its donations rise from Rs 94.63 lakh to Rs 2.98 crore, with celebrated author Arundhati Roy, who gave Rs 1 lakh, among the donors. It spent Rs 1.69 crore on elections in 2024-25.

The JD(U)'s donations rose to Rs 18.69 crore from Rs 4.35 crore, while the SP saw its donations rise from Rs 48.22 lakh to Rs 93.47 lakh.

ELECTORAL TRUSTS AND DONATIONS IN 2024-25

Electoral trust is set up by companies with the sole objective to distribute the contributions received by it from other companies and individuals to the political parties

An electoral trust is mandated to distribute at least 95% of contributions to parties it received in a fiscal

In 2024-25
Rs 3,811.34 cr* Received | **Rs 3,811.34 cr** Donated

So far, 13 of 19 electoral trusts have submitted reports to EC | Of the 13, four did not receive or distribute any money

BJP
Rs 3,142.65 cr /82.45% (of total Rs 3,811.34 cr collected by electoral trust) | **Rs 2,180.71 cr** from Prudent Electoral Trust out of Rs 2,668.49 cr
Rs 757.62 cr from Progressive Electoral Trust out of Rs 915 crore

CONGRESS
Rs 298.76 cr /7.83% Received | **Rs 77.34 cr** from Progressive Electoral Trust
Rs 21.63 crore from Prudent Electoral Trust

OTHERS
Trinamool Congress: **Rs 102 cr**
YSR Congress: **Rs 98 cr**
TDP: **Rs 44 cr**
BRS: **Rs 10 cr**
BJD: **Rs 15 cr**
DMK: **Rs 10 cr**

ELECTORAL TRUSTS

TRUSTS	Received from donors	Distributed to parties
Prudent Electoral Trust	Rs 2668.49 cr	Rs 2668.46 cr
Progressive	Rs 915 cr	Rs 914.97 cr
New Democratic Electoral Trust	Rs 160 cr	Rs 160 cr
Harmony Electoral Trust	Rs 35.55 cr	Rs 35.66 cr
Triumph Electoral Trust	Rs 25 cr	Rs 25 cr
Samaj Electoral Trust Association	Rs 6 cr	Rs 6 cr
Janpragati Electoral Trust	Rs 1.02 cr	Rs 1 cr
Jankalyan Electoral Trust	Rs 20 lakh	Rs 19 lakh
Einzigartig Electoral Trust	Rs 8 lakh	Rs 7.75 lakh

Bengal Babri row: Suspended TMC MLA floats party

BELDANGA (WB), PTI

MLA Humayun Kabir (left) during a public meeting after he floated a new outfit, Janata Unnayan Party, in Murshidabad district, West Bengal, on Monday. PTI

West Bengal MLA Humayun Kabir on Monday floated a new outfit, Janata Unnayan Party, days after he was suspended by the TMC for laying the foundation stone for a Babri-style mosque in Murshidabad district.

Addressing a public meeting in Beladanga, Kabir said his mission is to oust Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from power in the assembly polls, which will be due in less than six months.

"Mamata Banerjee will not be sworn in as chief minister in 2026; she will be the ex-chief minister. She is no longer the same person I knew and is now beyond the reach of the common man," he claimed.

"Our party will speak for the 'aam aadmi' of the state and their upliftment," he said, adding that he consciously did not retain any remnant of the Congress or the Trinamool while naming the new outfit.

Kabir, the MLA of Bharatpur, named eight candidates that his new party will field in the 2026 assembly elections, and said he would himself contest from Rejinagar and Beldanga, both of which were won by the TMC in 2021.

"I will win from both the seats that I will be contesting from," he declared, challenging the TMC to defeat him.

He launched his party's manifesto and said his first preference for poll symbol would be 'table', on which he had contested the 2016 state polls as an Independent, provided he receives the Election Commission's nod for it, while 'twin roses' will be his second choice.

He also unveiled the party's flag.

Kabir announced two of his namesakes as the party candidates from the Bhagabangola and Raninagar seats. He named Manish Pandey for Murshidabad and Nisha Chatterjee for Ballygunge in south Kolkata.

Haji Ibrar Hossain was named for Kharagpur Rural in West Midnapore, Muskera Bibi for Baisnabnagar in Malda and Wahidur Rahaman for Harirampur in Dakshin Dinajpur. "We can only tell you later how many seats we will be finally contesting," he told the gathering. He had earlier announced that he was intending to field candidates in 135 of the 294 seats in the state assembly.

The BJP alleged Kabir was working to help the TMC return to power.

B'desh suspends visa services in New Delhi, Tripura

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bangladesh has suspended visa services in its high commission in New Delhi and its mission in Tripura amid mounting strain in ties between the two countries.

The decision to suspend the visa services was taken after groups of protesters held demonstrations outside the two missions, people familiar with the matter said.

The Bangladesh high commission in New Delhi put out a public notice mentioning the suspension of visa services in view of unavoidable circumstances.

The assistant high commission of Bangladesh in Tripura also made a similar announcement on the suspension of visa services after protests were held outside the mission on Sunday.

It is learnt that a private operator tasked by Dhaka to process visa applications in West Bengal's Siliguri has also suspended its services.

An effigy of Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus was set ablaze in Kolkata on Monday as members of Hindu organisations staged a protest against the killing of a Hindu youth in Bangladesh. PTI

Bangladesh has witnessed a fresh wave of unrest following the death of student leader Sharif Osman Hadi last week. Hadi was a prominent face in the anti-government protests that forced the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government.

Some of the protesters last week also trained their anger against India.

Amid the fresh protests, a Hindu man, Dipu Chandra Das, was killed in Bangladesh's Mymensingh.

On Thursday, a group of angry protesters tried to storm India's assistant high commission in Chittagong. India subsequently suspended its visa services in the mission.

India on Wednesday summoned Bangladesh envoy Riaz Hamidullah and conveyed its strong concern over certain extremist elements announcing plans to create a security situation around the Indian mission in Dhaka.

India's action followed after certain extremist elements announced plans to hold protests around the Indian high commission in Dhaka.

In a statement, the MEA said that India "completely rejects the false narrative" sought to be created by extremist elements regarding certain recent events in Bangladesh.

"It is unfortunate that the interim government has neither conducted a thorough investigation nor shared meaningful evidence with India regarding the incidents," it said shortly after summoning Hamidullah.

Adityanath talks of '2 namoone'; Akhilesh says Delhi-Lucknow rift exposed

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday, without taking names, took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, saying there are "two namoone" (specimens) who flee the country whenever a serious matter comes up in the nation.

He made the remarks during a debate in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly while replying to SP's allegations over the illegal trade of codeine cough syrup.

The remarks drew a sharp response from Yadav, who claimed that it exposed an internal tussle between the state government and the BJP's central leadership.

Rejecting claims that the issue had led to the deaths of children, Adityanath asserted that no such fatalities had occurred in Uttar Pradesh.

"There are two namoone (specimens) in the country, one in Delhi and the other in Lucknow. Whenever there's a discussion in the country, these individuals flee the country," he said.

SP chief hits back

Akhilesh hit back almost immediately and called the statement "an open admission of internal discord within the BJP".

"Self-admission! No one had expected that the Delhi-Lucknow fight would reach this point. People holding constitutional positions should maintain at least some sense of propriety and not cross the limits of decorum," the Kannauj MP said on X.

Akhilesh was apparently referring to media reports in the past with regard to the appointment of two deputy CMs and also making an ex-bureaucrat, considered to be close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a minister in the state, to what some claimed to 'limit' Adityanath's authority. The CM had dismissed these claims.

Adityanath said in the Assembly that the Special Task Force (STF) was investigating the matter and that 78 people had so far been arrested in this connection.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaks during the winter session of the Legislative Assembly on Monday. PTI

Duped of Rs 8 cr, ex-IPS officer shoots himself in Punjab

PATIALA, PTI: Former IPS officer Amar Singh Chahal allegedly shot himself with the rifle of his security guard here on Monday.

Police have recovered a note from the spot, in which the ex-IPS reportedly claimed that he had been duped of Rs 8.10 crore by cyber thugs who posed as wealth management advisors.

He was shifted to a hospital with bullet injuries on his chest, Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Varun Sharma said.

In the 12-page note addressed to Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, Chahal alleged that fraudsters operated through WhatsApp and Telegram groups under the name 'F-777 DBS Wealth Equity Research Group', falsely claiming links with the DBS Bank and its CEO.

"With great sorrow, pain and despair, I have to bring to your kind notice that I have been cheated by these cyber thugs posing as wealth equity advisors to the tune of Rs 8.10 crore," the note stated, adding, "I regret that I did not use due caution while parting with my money."

The doctor said Chahal will remain under observation at the hospital for the next 12 to 24 hours.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

HAT-TRICK OF HOWLERS

Vote theft to graft: Union minister sparks 3 rows in 3 days

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Is Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi becoming a liability for the BJP-led NDA?

The Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), or HAM(S), leader is the party's sole MP — from Gaya in Bihar — and a member of the Narendra Modi Cabinet.

It all started with his public address in Bihar, where Manjhi, a former CM, recalled how he made his partyman, who was trailing during the 2020 Assembly polls, win through the "help" of the then Gaya district magistrate Abhishek Singh.

"The one who lost during the 2025 Assembly election should have approached me, and I would have again asked the DM to help him win," said Manjhi.

As the Opposition accused the NDA of "vote chori" (vote theft), Manjhi backtracked and clarified that he was speaking about the recounting of votes.

Before this controversy ebbed, Manjhi sparked a second row, saying all MPs and MLAs take a cut from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds. "If my son Santosh Suman (currently a Bihar Cabinet minister) is not taking a commission, I would suggest that he start taking his cut. Through a development fund of Rs 5 crore, you will earn lakhs and help our party grow. I myself have given my party Rs 40 lakh through such a fund," he said.

As if made aware that his statement might embarrass the BJP leadership, Manjhi again backtracked, this time blaming the media for twisting his statements, saying: "I was trying to explain how everyone takes a commission in the development fund meant for MPs and MLAs."

The Bihar ex-CM then stirred another row. "During the 2024 Lok Sabha seat-sharing negotiations, my party was promised two Lok Sabha seats and an RS berth. However, we got only one LS seat, which we won." he recalled.

"I am grateful to PM Modi, who made me a Union minister. But our Rajya Sabha berth promise remains unfulfilled. If our demand is not met, we may walk out of the NDA," said Manjhi, aware of the fact that the five RS seats that will fall vacant in April 2026 will be distributed amongst the JD(U) and the BJP (two seats each) and the Chirag Paswan-led LJP(R).

Plea in SC to restrain PM from offering 'chadar' at Ajmer Sharif

Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to restrain Prime Minister Narendra Modi from offering a ceremonial 'chadar' at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah.

The matter was mentioned before a vacation bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

"No listing today," the bench said.

The bench asked advocate Barun Sinha, appearing for petitioners Jitender Singh and others, to approach the Registry.

The plea claimed that the practice of the Prime Minister of India offering a chadar at the Ajmer Dargah of Moinuddin Chishti, initiated by Pt Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 and continued since, has no legal or constitutional basis.

The petition claimed, "Historical records indicate that Moinuddin Chishti was associated with foreign invasions that conquered Delhi and Ajmer and caused mass subjugation and conversions of the native population, actions fundamentally contrary to India's sovereignty, dignity, and the civilisational ethos."

Nagaland's Nagami Mithun gets global scientific identity

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Nagami Mithun, a unique bovine species traditionally reared by communities in the hills of Nagaland under free-range systems, was often mistaken for cattle or buffalo due to the absence of a formal scientific breed identity.

That ambiguity has now ended, with Nagami Mithun being officially registered as the world's first recognised Mithun breed, giving Nagaland's state animal a distinct scientific status.

The National Research Centre on Mithun (NRCM), based in Medziphema, Nagaland, on Monday announced that the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, Haryana, had confirmed the registration following years of systematic scientific investigation, documentation and validation.

"The recognition of Nagami as a registered breed will facilitate targeted conservation strategies, scientific breeding programmes, enhanced livelihood opportunities for farmers, and the sustainable development of Mithun production systems in Nagaland. This is a historic milestone, especially considering that Mithun was recognised as a food animal by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India in 2023 and was also included in the domestic animal diversity information system of the FAO, Rome," said Girish Patil, Director of ICAR-NRCM, Nagaland.

Mithuns at the ICAR-National Research Centre.

The FSSAI recognition had provided a significant boost to promoting Mithun as an alternative meat option.

Nagami Mithun is widely distributed across several districts of Nagaland, where it is traditionally reared under free-range, community-managed forest grazing systems. The breed is distinguished by its unique phenotypic and genetic characteristics, including a predominantly black coat with distinctive white stockings, a strong and compact body conformation, excellent adaptability to forest-based hill ecosystems.

ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ

ಎಸ್. ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560070
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080– 26714989 Email: sribanashankaritemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ/ಟಿ/1/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಎಸ್. ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ದೇವಾಲಯದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಹೆಸರು	ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ		ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
		ರಿಂದ	ವರೆಗೆ	
1	ದಾಸೋಹ ಭವನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಕಾರಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು	22.12.2025	04.01.2026	06.01.2026

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Malleshwaram Zone, Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building, Chennmmanakere Achukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085.

No: EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/07/2025-26 Date: 22-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organization for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Potholes Filling to Dodda Ganapati Temple Sub Division (Ward No. 196, 197 and 198 - Each Ward Rs. 5.00 Lakhs) Roads for the year 2025-26. **(Two Cover System) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.82, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,02,000/-**
2	Providing Potholes Filling to Vidyapeeta Sub Division (Ward No. 199, 200 and 201 - Each Ward Rs. 5.00 Lakhs) Roads for the year 2025-26. **(Two Cover System) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.82, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,02,000/-**
3	Providing Security Services to All BBMP Office Buildings in Basavanagudi Constituency. **(Two Cover System) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 63.35, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,27,000/-**
4	Providing House Keeping Services to All BBMP Office Buildings in Basavanagudi Constituency. **(Single Cover System) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 21.16, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24-12-2025, 15.00 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **07-01-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **14-01-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **16-01-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Basavanagudi Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

IN THE COURT OF XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AND SPECIAL COURT OF KPIDFE ACT 2004, AT BENGALURU (CCH-92)

MISC. No. 1164/2025

BETWEEN: The Special Officer & Competent Authority for IMA & Other KPID Cases and Competent Authority For M/s. Samruddha Jeevan Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Ltd and Prosperity Agro India Pvt Ltd and its Group Entities, Office at: 3rd Floor, Mini V.V. Tower, Podium Block, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru -560001. Represented by its Competent Authority Sri. Amlan Aditya Biswas, Aged about 56 Years

........PETITIONER

AND

M/s. Samruddha Jeevan Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Ltd and Prosperity Agro India Pvt Ltd and its Group Entities.

...RESPONDENT'S

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No. 1,2 and 3

1. M/s. Samruddha Jeevan Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Ltd and Prosperity Agro India Pvt Ltd and its Group Entities, Having its head office at 4th Floor, Tantra Building Yashodhan Business Complex, Bhole Road, Shivajinagar, Pune-411005. Represented by its Chairman Mr. Pooja Ramesh Kamle

2. M/s. Prosperity Agro India Pvt Ltd., Having its head office at No. 102, Stilt 1st Floor, Prosperity Heights, CTS, No. 6769 Mitra-Mandal, Chowk, Parvathi, Pune, Maharashtra - 411009. Represented by its Director, Dr. Dattatray.

3. Mr. Dattatray Madhav Yadav Aged about 55 Years, S/o Madhav Yadav R/a Flat No. 22, Nath Complex, Bhigwan, Indapur Taluk, Pune, Maharastra.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 5(2) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 and against the Respondents.

The Respondent No. 1,2 and 3 are hereby issued show cause notice U/s 12(1) of KPIDFE Act 2004 and notice on IA No. I under section 5 of the Limitation Act., to appear in court of the XCI Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petition on **17th day of January 2026 at 11.00 A.M.,** in the forenoon.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this **15th day December 2025.**

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Sri Satish V., Special Public Prosecutor.

DIPR/CP/4612/Zen/2025-26

Zilla Panchayat Office, Shivamogga

Post Box No.: 127, Kuvempu Road, Shivamogga – 577 201
No.: ZPS/Admin(2)/CR-/2025-26 Date: 22.12.2025

e-Procurement Tender Notification

e-Tender is invited through e-portal from interested, eligible Firms for supply of computer and UPS and for making a maintenance agreement for a period of one year and for the said period making a rate contract for purchase of the required computer, printer, scanner consumables for the information centres in the limits of Shivamogga Zilla Panchayat . Commencement date for submission of Tender is 22.12.2025 and last date is 12.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM. Approx. amount put to Tender: Rs. 49,00,000/-. EMD amount is fixed as: 98,000/-. Interested Tenderers should upload in website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Tender Document and information is available on this website.

For further information contact 08182- 267224.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary (Admin)Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/127/12/1450

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ–581325

email: acfwldandeli@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಸ.ಅ.ಸಂ/ಬಿಜಿಟಿ/ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿವಿಲ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–12–2025

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿವ್ಹಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ. (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಗುಂಡ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ **Construction of Group House** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ: (ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್), ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ – 581325 ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ ಹಾಕಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–12–2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವದು. (ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–12–2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸದ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–12–2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು) (5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು: (ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್), ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರಿಂದ ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ. ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಫೋನ್ ನಂ: 08284–231585

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/859/25-26 Dt. 22.12.2025

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Kalaburagi, Invites tenders from the eligible bidders for the following works.

No.CEE/Tr(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/10879 Date : 11.12.2025

(1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/Gudekote LILO Dt: 11.12.2025 for "Re-construction of existing 66Kv Coyote **LILO** Line by Drake LILO on 110Kv DC Towers from existing 66Kv **Badaeladaku (Kudligi) Hanagal SC line** (Proposed DC Line) to the existing **66/11Kv Gudekote** S/s for a distance of 1.890Kms in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara District (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all materials/ equipments". **(Amt put tender Rs.1,11,52,309 /-)**

No. CEE/Tr(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/11308, 11337 & 11322 Date : 19.12.2025

(2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/Deodurga LILO Dt: 18.12.2025 for Conversion of SC line on SC towers to DC line on DC towers LILO from tap point of existing 110kV Raichur-Shahpur line-I to 110/33/11kV Deodurga sub-station in Deodurga Taluk, Raichur Dist for a distance of 05 Kms along with construction Terminal Bay (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all materials/equipments. (Amount put to Tender **Rs. 4,08,64,858.91/-.**)

(3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Maliyabad Dt: 19.12.2025 Call-2 for "Replacement of 2x10MVA 110/11kV Transformers by 2x20MVA 110/11kV Transformers & providing additional switchgear at 110kV Maliyabad sub-station in Raichur Taluk, Raichur District on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments (Excluding supply 20 MVA power transformers and 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments,Testing and Commissioning. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,23,17,591.40/-).**

(4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/MUKKUNDA LILO Dt: 19.12.2025 for Construction of 110kV LILO line to 110kV Mukkunda sub-station by utilizing 110kV DC towers from the tapping point of existing 110kV Munirabad-2 line for a distance of 12.62 kms along with construction of terminal bay at 110/11kV Mukkunda sub-station in Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District (including Civil Works) of all materials/equipments.(Amount put to Tender **Rs. 1,81,63,751.87/-.**)

No.CEE/Tr(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/11410, 11422,11398, 11386 & 11374 Dt: 20.12.2025

(5) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/66kV Gudekote 12.5MVA Enhancement Call-2 Dt: 19.12.2025 for Enhancement of 6.3 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 12.5MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at 66/11Kv sub-station at Gudekote in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara District. **(Amt put tender Rs.65,72,867 /-)**

(6) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/66kV Kudligi 12.5MVA Enhancement Call-2, Dt: 19.12.2025 for Enhancement of 6.3 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 12.5MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at 66/11Kv sub-station in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara District.

(7) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/66kV Punabaghatta 8MVA Replacement Call-2, Dt: 19.12.2025 for Replacement of 1x8 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 1x20MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at 66/11Kv sub-station, Punabaghatta in Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District.

(8) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Siraguppa Call-2, Dt: 19.12.2025 for Providing additional 1x20 MVA, 110/11Kv Transformer at 110/33/11kV Siruguppa sub-station Siruguppa Taluk, Ballari District.

(9) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Sirigeri Cross Call-2, Dt: 19.12.2025 for Replacement of existing 2x10 MVA, 110/11Kv by 2x20MVA, 110/11Kv Power Transformer and providing additional MCVCB switchgear at 110Kv Sirigeri Cross S/s in Siruguppa Taluk, Ballari District on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

For more information log on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or directly on procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 26.12.2025 for Sl.No. (1) to (4) & 23.12.2025 for Sl.No. (5) to (9).**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
"Prasaran Bhavan", Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

BMCRI SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL (PMSSY)

Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone / Fax: 080 - 26705883
E-mail: pmssysshospital@gmail.com, Website: www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in

Date: 22-12-2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited through e-Procurement Portal for Tender Document for **Various Service** below notifications to **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	BMCRI/SSH/SUP/ TEND/10/2025-26	Tender for Establishment for ABARK Services
2	BMCRI/SSH/SUP/ TEND/11/2025-26	Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Online UPS

Schedule: ➢ Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **22-12-2025.** ➢ Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **02-01-2026.** ➢ Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **06-01-2026.** ➢ Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **07-01-2026.** Tender details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPPP mode Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact **Special Officer, BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-26981928 / 26705883,** E-mail: **pmssysshospital@gmail.com,** Website: **www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Special Officer
DIPR/CP/4608/Adverto/2025-26 **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2025-26/2489 Date: 20.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under various head of account grant for 38 works (Indent No: 21655, 19567, 21842, 21679, 21666, 21656, 21657, 21658, 21659, 21660, 21661, 21662, 21664, 21665, 21667, 21668, 21669, 21670, 21671, 21672, 21673, 21674, 21675, 21675, 21677, 21678, 21680, 21681, 21683, 21682, 21684, 21685, 21686, 21687, 21247, 21604, 21603, 21454). for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.8.00 lakhs Maximum 100.00 lakhs Total Rs:1313.72 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-

Last Date for information any quarries Date: 30.12.2025 : Time : 11.00 Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 31.12.2025 : Time : 16.00 Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 01.01.2026 : Time : 16.01 Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 02.01.2026 : Time : 16.02 Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.550:DIPR/CTA/ KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE, GOK

Requires Professionals

Under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME performance) program

Through Unnathi Enterprises, Chikkamagalur

(On Outsource Basis)

Graduates (B.E/B.Tech/B.Sc/B.Com/BBA/BBM with minimum 3 years of work experience)

or

Post Graduates (M.E/M.Tech/M.S/M.Sc/M.Com/MBA with minimum 2 years of work experience)

Honorarium: **Rs. 35,000/-** (Approx / pm)

Interested candidates may apply though the link below

https://kctu.karnataka.gov.in

Last Date for submission of Applications is extended up to **27/12/2025**

DIPR/CP/4593/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders through KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

Procurement of - 1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/IND/2033/CALL-2 Turbine Spares-Seal Strips & Keys. **EMD: Rs.48,100/-. 2) KPCL/2025-26/IND2038/CALL-2** 198KV Polymeric Lightning Arrestor. **EMD: Rs.2,900/-. 3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2260** Hydrogen Gas Regulators for H2 Cylinders. **EMD: Rs.1,800/-. 4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2263** Jointing Kits, MCCB, Switches etc. **EMD: Rs.9,100/-. 5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2268** Fuses & Switches. **EMD: Rs.6,900/-. 6) KPCL/2025-26/IND2269** Welding Electrodes and Accessories. **EMD: Rs.2,600/-. 7) KPCL/2025-26/IND2270** Copper Lugs for regular maintenance works of CHP. **EMD: Rs. 1,100/-. 8) KPCL/2025-26/IND2771** Cables and Festoon Cables. **EMD: Rs.49,100/-. 9) KPCL/2025-26/IND2272** Telephone Cables and wires. **EMD: Rs.3,300/-. 10) KPCL/2025-26/IND2274** Sacrificing Zinc Anodes for Condensers of Units 5 to 8. **EMD: Rs.6,400/-. 11) KPCL/2025-26/IND2275** Vibration Meter and Non-Contact Thermometer. **EMD: Rs.1,600/-. 12) KPCL/2025-26/IND2276** Vacuum Pumps and VT Fuses. **EMD: Rs.6,500/-.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1: **01.01.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 2 & 3: **29.12.2025, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 4 & 5: **02.01.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 6 to 12: **05.01.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** Mobile: 94495 97966. E-mail: eeprtps@gmail.com

13) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3804 Supply, Fabrication and Erection of platform MS Grills at Unit 5 and Unit 8 mill bay. **EMD: Rs.30,000/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **24.12.2025, 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (Mill Maintenance-2),** Mobile: 94495 96473. E-mail: eemm2rtps@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

1) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3805 Dated: 19.12.2025 Erection, Testing and Commissioning of electrical switch mechanism of important valves of Unit-5 to 8 of RTPS. **EMD: Rs.40,102/-.** Last date for for submission of bid (both Cover 1 & 2): **03.01.2026, 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (LT-2),** Mobile: 94495 96531. E-mail: eelt2rtps@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM TO N.I.T

1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3762 Dated: 04.12.2025 Providing, Replacement of MS Chequer Plates and strengthening of walk wat structure of overhead wet ash slurry discharge lines of Unit 1 to 4 from main road side to security 'in-gate' of ash pond and Fabricating of New steps by MS material for climbing on walkway structure. Above cited reference, Modification in tender dates on e-portal website: Last date for submission bids (Two Parts) is extended upto: **26.12.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs.** All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unaltered. Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (AHP-1),** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94495 96544. E-mail: eeahp1rtps@ gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5045, 5088, 5086, (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender are invited for the following work:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Supply, Installation of LED Luminaries with five years warranty at LEOS Campuses, Peenya, Bangalore - 560058. NIET No: LEOS/CMG/EMW-06/2025-26; Dtd: 17.12.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 18.77 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 37,540/-; Period of Completion in months :** 05 Months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 23.12.2025; **Closing Date :** 09.01.2026

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd-
GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone : 080 25084184, 4156)

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Description	Details	
Name of work	Improvements and additions to existing vacant quarters in CISF Quarters & Barracks, Thippasandara, Bengaluru- Civil, PH & Electrical Works (Phase-II)	Upgradation of URSC Campus – Civil Works (Phase-1B), URSC Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru – 560017.
E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/C/08/2025-26, Dt. 18/12/2025	URSC/C&MG/C/C/09/2025-26, Dt. 19/12/2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 154.27 Lakhs	₹ 330.40 Lakhs
Period of completion	Twelve Months	Twelve Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 3,08,540/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 6,60,800/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ./ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ–1/2025–26/1550 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ)

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ರಾಜಾಪೂರ–ಕರ್ಕಹಳ್ಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಓವರ್ ಹೆಡ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21614 **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 60.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 23.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 05.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 05.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 07.01.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 12.01.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/434/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

Gujarat man captured in Ukraine appeals to PM Modi for help

'Be careful': Sahil warns Indians against joining Russian army

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A 23-year-old resident from Gujarat's Morbi, captured by Ukrainian forces while fighting for the Russian military, made an emotional appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to secure his release.

In the video clips shared by his family, Sahil Mohammad Hussain Majothi claimed that he is in the custody of the Ukrainian army for fighting alongside the Russian army. Majothi enlisted in the Russian army to avoid prison in a narcotics case.

Earlier in October, the Ukrainian military had released a video announcing Sahil's surrender.

Sahil Mohammad Hussain Majothi makes an appeal for help to return to India.

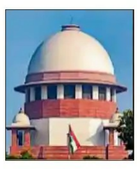
"Namaskar. My name is Sahil Mohammad Hussain Majothi. I am from Morbi city of Gujarat. I came to Russia in 2024 to study, but due to some financial and visa problems, I got caught up in some issues. I came in contact with some people in Russia and ended up getting trapped in a drug case. I was sentenced to 7 years in prison for something I didn't do. Under the influence of the police in jail, I signed a contract to fight in the Russian-Ukrainian war, which was a huge mistake. Because of this, I am now stuck in Ukraine as a war criminal, and at the moment I feel hopeless, not knowing what will happen," Sahil said in a video.

"I want to send a message to Indian citizens coming to Russia, especially those who want to come here for higher studies or work.. Be careful because there are many scammers... And, stay away from this war. Also, I want to appeal to the Indian government, Prime Minister Modi saheb, and S Jaishankar saheb, please help if possible. That's all," he said.

According to Sahil's mother, Hasinaben, he went to Russia for higher studies at ITMO University in St Petersburg in November last year. To support himself, he took up a part-time job in a courier company. However, he was caught with a parcel containing narcotic substances and was subsequently sentenced to seven years.

SC stays conviction of ex-Maha minister in cheating case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the conviction of former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Manikrao Kokate in a cheating and forgery case, giving him relief from imminent disqualification as a lawmaker.



A vacation bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice to the Maharashtra government on Kokate's plea in the case related to a housing scheme for EWS with an annual income limit of Rs 30,000, dating back to 1989-1992. After hearing his counsel, the bench said, "Issue notice. In the meanwhile, the conviction of the petitioner shall remain stayed to the extent that there shall be no disqualification as a member of the legislative assembly. However, he shall not hold any office of profit."

Kokate is an MLA from the Sinnar constituency. His conviction and a two-year sentence by a magistrate in February this year were upheld by the Nashik sessions court on December 16, holding that he and his brother dishonestly induced the state government to allot them flats.

The Bombay High Court on December 19 suspended Kokate's two-year jail term in the cheating and forgery case. It granted him bail but refused to stay his conviction.

Kokate was divested of his portfolios on December 17. On December 18, he resigned from the Maharashtra cabinet.

Andhra: Ex-CBI chief alleges circumcision of non-Muslims

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Former CBI director and retired IPS officer M Nageswara Rao has alleged that circumcision is being promoted as a routine medical procedure for non-Muslim boys in Andhra Pradesh, as part of an organised attempt to advance a communal agenda.

Rao has written to Andhra Pradesh Health, Family Welfare & Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, flagging what he terms a deeply concerning trend of circumcision among non-Muslim boys.

He claims that credible sources have informed him that many doctors are being taught or influenced to believe circumcision is medically beneficial and are therefore advising and performing the procedure on non-Muslim children over a considerable period, treating it as a routine intervention rather than one strictly indicated by specific medical conditions.

He alleged that such a pattern pointed to misinformation being seeded in medical education or training, possibly with an organised effort behind it to promote a particular religious or communal agenda while presenting it as scientific practice.

Seeking government intervention, Rao requested the constitution of a committee to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation.

He urged the authorities to review medical records for at least the past 10 years, or more if necessary, to ascertain the medical indications and recorded justifications for each such procedure. He also called for an examination of the syllabi, teaching materials and training modules of all medical colleges and institutions in the state to identify whether circumcision is being projected as a general health measure rather than a procedure with specific indications.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav thanked Rao for bringing the issue to their attention and said the government was committed to evidence-based medical practice, ethical standards, and communal harmony.

He assured that the health department would examine the matter and that appropriate action, if required, would be taken.

Wolf snatches 3-yr-old boy sleeping with mother, mauls him to death in UP

BAHRAICH (UP), PTI: A wolf snatched a three-year-old boy sleeping next to his mother on the verandah of their house, dragged him to a field, and mauled him to death in the Kaiserganj tehsil in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district on Monday morning, a senior forest department official said.

So far, 12 people, including an elderly couple, have died in wolf attacks in the Kaiserganj area, while 32 people have been injured, officials said.

Divisional Forest Officer of Bahraich Forest Division Ram Singh Yadav said, "On Monday at around 4.30 am, a wild animal snatched Ansh, son of Shiv Manohar, who was sleeping on a straw mat in the verandah of his house with his mother in the Rasulpur Dareta village, located amidst a populated area.

"Upon receiving the news, forest department teams, along with villagers, launched a search operation. At noon, the child's mutilated body was recovered about one kilometre from the house. Both of the child's hands and one leg had been eaten.

The manner in which the child was carried away and eaten confirms that it was a wolf attack," Yadav said.

The DFO said that the forest department and the district administration are maintaining vigilance at every level. Day and night patrolling and awareness campaigns are being conducted in the villages.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

CARE TO ROUND UP YOUR TOTAL TO HELP SAVE THE WILD SNAILS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO?
HUH? OH, NOT TODAY
IT'S ONLY A FEW CENTS
I'M ROUNDING UP!
ME TOO, FOR SURE...
WELL, MAYBE THIS ONCE...
THESE DAYS YOU GET A FREE GUILT TRIP WITH YOUR CHECKOUT
Conner Pharmacy
9-13

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

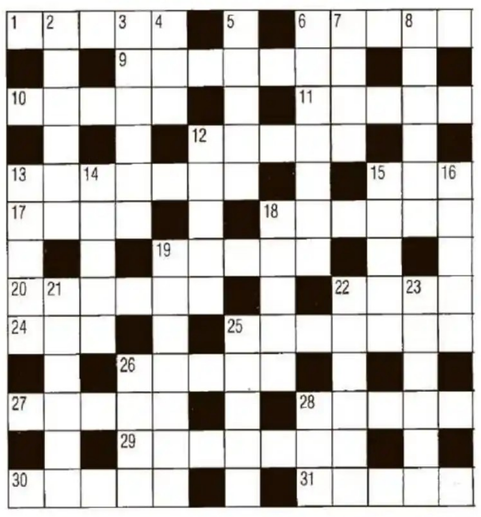
Peanuts

NO, I WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY TO RAISE A DOG IN TODAY'S WORLD
THERE'S TOO MUCH TURMOIL...THE FUTURE IS TOO UNCERTAIN!
MAYBE A SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS WOULD HELP THE WORLD A LITTLE..
I COULD BE KINDER TO A SET OF FREE DANCE LESSONS!

Marvin

MY DOG BITSY IS NOT A BIG FAN OF CATS
AND CATS ALWAYS SEEM TO SENSE IT
WHICH IS WHY MARY ELLEN'S CAT FIME IS DESPERATELY CLINGING TO THE CEILING FAN
GRRR

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12315



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Fool around next to a deep hole (5)
6 Small vehicles strikingly unpopular! (5)
9 A great ball could give such pleasures (7)
10 Not for the first time, an increase (5)
11 Bit of a near thing in an electrical connection (5)
12 Inclined to be passed over? (5)
13 A business worry (7)
15 The note thus left (3)
17 Doesn't she heal well? (4)
18 Beatrix Potter told a ducky tale about her (6)
19 Teacher organising a tour around central Austria (5)
20 Say nothing when incarcerated (4,2)
22 Half of Yosemite (4)
24 A missile from Uncle (3)
25 No downs could possibly be mountainous! (7)
26 A nose for tobacco (5)
27 Up there, you're in trouble (5)
28 Brian's demented, one thinks (5)
29 Nominally, he led Nora astray (7)
30 Quaintly like a couple of comedy characters (5)
31 Blooming terrible rates! (5)

DOWN
2 A great thing to put first into a stocking (3,3)
3 A change of rod (6)
4 His turned up nose has no point, ultimately (3)
5 Like Jane's flat? (5)
6 One lying about being run over by a train? (7)
7 See any change of colour (4)
8 Like the dollar one might bet for a seat? (6)
12 As a team, perhaps, gain promotion outright (5)
13 Figure an animal to be of quality (5)
14 Prophet of human disaster? (5)
15 As located, it's in the southeast at the end of the road (5)
16 A language and a quarter? (5)
18 Is the butchers' business such an endeavour? (5)
19 Jailer's detention centre in the country (7)
21 The abomination of knots in thread (6)
22 They're crossed (being in crosswords) (6)
23 Usually bad reason (6)
25 On the fourth of July, nuns can be cheerful (5)
26 Find a market (possibly down the river?) (4)
28 Every brazen hussy has one (3)

ACROSS
1 Untidy (5)
6 Remembrance flower (5)
9 Stress (7)
10 Portly (5)
11 Of the moon (5)
12 Heals (5)
13 Readable (7)
15 Young goat (3)
17 Dry (4)
18 Exhibit, flaunt (6)
19 Continental quilt (5)
20 Surgical knife (6)
22 Sudden quick movement (4)
24 Newt (3)
25 Hits (7)
26 Hector (5)
27 Fundamental (5)
28 Surveillance (5)
29 Young hare (7)
30 Prison rooms (5)
31 Brutal person (5)

DOWN
2 One or the other (6)
3 Daft (6)
4 Still (3)
5 Edition (5)
6 Weasel-like mammal (7)
7 Burden (4)
8 Peaceful, mild (6)
12 Influence (5)
13 Serving spoon (5)
14 Very tall person (5)
15 Inuit boat (5)
16 Financial liabilities (5)
18 Trivial (5)
19 Infers (7)
21 On fire (6)
22 Expand (6)
23 Responds (6)
25 Precipitation form (5)
26 Bird's beak (4)
28 Spider's trap (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12314

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Grace 8, Co.-MIC 10, R-ills 11, Bus 12, Hared 13, Digital 15, Set-up 18, But 19, St-rid-e 21, Albert-a 22, L-Ure 23, S-Lay 24, Cut rate 26, Fru-gal 29, Ti-e 31, Fuses 32, Elderly 34, Th-ere 35, P-Al 36, Sad-ie 37, Algae 38, Twice.
DOWN: 1, Robin 2, Ris-ibl-e 4, Re-Al 5, Cresta 6, Eider 7, Clo-u-d 9, Mug (gum) 12, Hateful 14, Tub 16, Title 17, Pep-ys 19, Startle 20, Cliff 21, Argus 23, Steeply 24, C-as-hew 25, A-id 27, Rural 28, Get it 30, Allay 32, Er-ic 33, Rag.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Grass 8, Fades 10, Hoard 11, Tie 12, Coven 13, Find out 15, Aides 18, Fad 19, Arcane 21, Murders 22, Paul 23, Derv 24, Besides 26, Abates 29, Tic 31, Ruler 32, Deposit 34, Nadir 35, Rip 36, Depot 37, Puppy 38, Realm.
DOWN: 1, Latin 2, Needful 4, Riot 5, Shears 6, Sonic 7, Green 9, Din 12, Cuddles 14, Oar 16, Dares 17, Serve 19, Arbiter 20, Spear 21, Mural 23, Decorum 24, Berate 25, Dip 27, Buyer 28, Tenor 30, Nippy 32, Dial 33, Sip.

◆SU-DO-KU-6784◆

3		7						
5	1		3				4	6
9			7			3		2
	4			1				
		1		6		5		
				7			9	
4		2			7			8
7	9				8		3	4
						2		9

medium

5	7	6	1	2	9	4	3	8
3	9	1	5	8	4	2	7	6
8	2	4	7	3	6	9	5	1
4	8	7	2	6	1	3	9	5
6	1	3	4	9	5	8	2	7
9	5	2	8	7	3	6	1	4
1	3	5	6	4	2	7	8	9
2	6	8	9	1	7	5	4	3
7	4	9	3	5	8	1	6	2

SOLUTION TO 6783

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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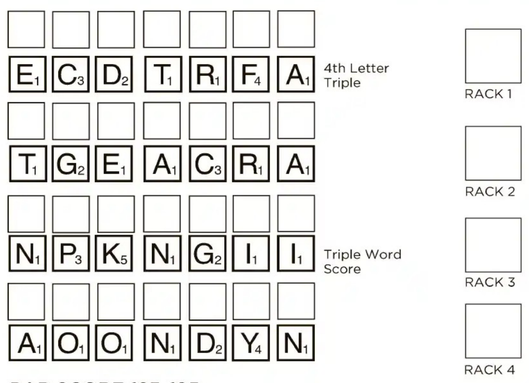

E1 C3 D2 T1 R1 F4 A1
4th Letter Triple
T1 G2 E1 A1 C3 R1 A1
N1 P3 K5 N1 G2 I1 I1
Triple Word Score
A1 O1 O1 N1 D2 Y4 N1
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 185-195
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

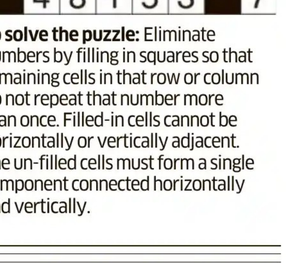
M3 O1 A1 N1 F4 U1 L1	RACK 1 =	86
P3 A1 S1 T1 U1 R1 E1	RACK 2 =	77
D2 R1 I1 V4 E1 R1 S1	RACK 3 =	83
H4 A1 W4 S1 E1 R1 S1	RACK 4 =	89
PAR SCORE 220-230	JUDD'S TOTAL	335

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MCAOM
NINOO
CPTEOK
RESNTY


Oh, my! These are amazing!
Adding the chocolate pieces just changed everything.
It was a genius idea!
RUTH WAKEFIELD, WHO CREATED CHOCOLATE CHIPS IN 1937, WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLEND UPEND DREAMY OBLIGE
Answer: The nurse was trying to help and didn't appreciate the patient being — ILL-MANNERED

HITORI-3238

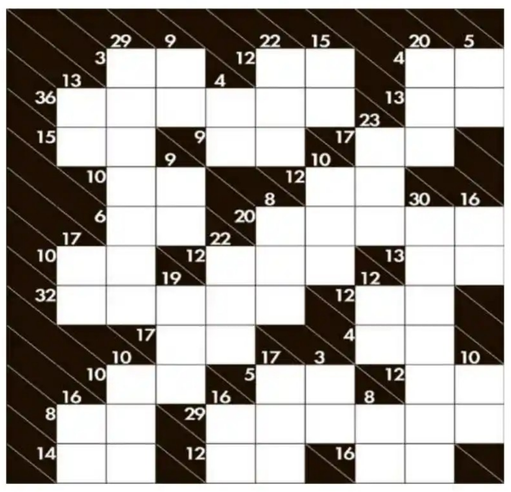
5	2	3	2	8	3	1	6
4	3	5	8	5	2	7	6
3	2	1	3	6	8	6	5
8	6	5	7	1	6	3	6
8	1	6	3	7	4	3	2
2	4	3	6	4	7	8	1
6	3	8	1	3	1	1	4
7	8	7	5	1	1	4	3

SOLUTION TO 3237

■	5	■	7	1	4	6	■
8	1	5	4	■	2	■	3
■	3	■	5	8	■	7	6
4	■	2	3	6	7	1	8
1	6	7	8	3	5	4	■
7	■	1	6	4	8	■	5
3	7	■	2	■	1	5	4
■	4	8	1	5	3	■	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

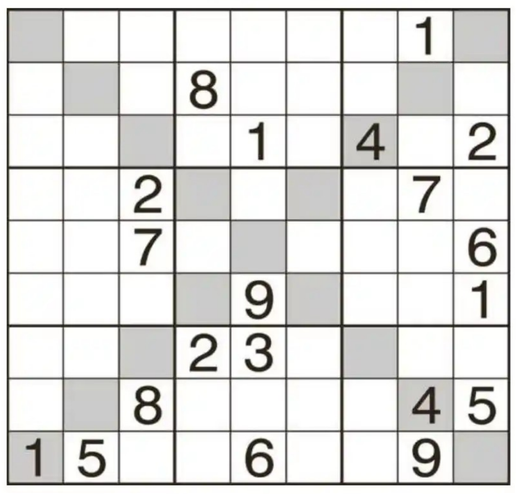
KAKURO- 3238



SOLUTION TO 3237

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3774



SOLUTION TO 3773

8	2	1	7	5	4	6	9	3
9	3	7	6	8	2	5	4	1
4	6	5	3	9	1	7	8	2
5	7	2	4	3	6	9	1	8
6	9	3	8	1	7	4	2	5
1	4	8	5	2	9	3	6	7
7	5	9	1	6	8	2	3	4
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	7	9
2	1	4	9	7	3	8	5	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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CG-DL-E- 19122025-268634
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग- II - खण्ड- 3 - उप खण्ड- (ii)
PART II - Section -3 - Sub section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 5671] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिसम्बर 17 2025/ अग्रहायण 26, 1947
No.5671] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025/AGRAHAYANA 26, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th December, 2025

S.O. 5867(E)-Date: 17.12.2025— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/Two/ Four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **NH-69 in the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(II) of section 3C of the said Act.

The Hearing of objections as per National Highway Act 1956 section 3C (1) (2) and (3) will be on 09-01-2026, 11:30 am. Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highway Authority of India, Tumkur Branch, Bettashri Complex, 5th Cross, 60 Ft. Road, Sapthagiri Badavane, Tumkur-572102** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and aftermaking such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without **structures within the stretch of land from Design Km 347.500 (Intersection with NH-48 at Km 116.800) to Km 367.700 on Sira to Badavanahalli section of NH-69 in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: TUMKUR**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Sira					
Village: Magodu					
1	200	Private	Dry	4122.68	0.412268
2	309	Private	Dry	328.803	0.0328803
3	362	Private	Dry	1517.55	0.151755
4	363/1	Private	Dry	480.558	0.0480558
5	363/2	Private	NAK	1112.87	0.111287
6	364	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
7	365	Private	Dry	1011.7	0.10117
8	371	Private	Dry	1239.33	0.123933
9	372	Private	Dry	1391.09	0.139109
10	373/1	Private	Dry	480.558	0.0480558
11	373/2	Private	Dry	480.558	0.0480558
12	373/3	Private	Dry	505.85	0.050585
13	374	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
14	375/2	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
15	375/3	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
16	376	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
17	377	Private	Dry	429.973	0.0429973
18	378	Private	Dry	354.095	0.0354095
19	379	Private	Dry	455.265	0.0455265
Village: Borasandra					
20	121	Private	Dry/NAK	1821.06	0.182106
21	122	Common	Kharab/ Dry	2048.69	0.204869
22	129/1	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
23	129/2	Private	Dry	75.878	0.0075878
24	131/1	Private	Dry	531.143	0.0531143
25	131/2	Private	Dry	328.803	0.0328803
26	131/3	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
27	131/4	Private	Dry	177.0475	0.0177048
28	132/1	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
29	132/2	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
30	133/2	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
Village: Guligenahalli					
31	107	Private	N A K	1239.33	0.123933
32	42/6	Private	Dry	354.095	0.0354095
33	42/7	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
34	42/8	Private	Dry	252.925	0.0252925
35	43/1A	Private	Dry	429.973	0.0429973
36	48/7	Private	Dry	75.878	0.0075878
37	50/11	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
38	50/12	Private	Dry	120.139	0.0120139
39	50/13	Private	Dry	25.2925	0.0025293
40	50/14	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
41	50/15	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
42	50/16	Private	Dry	809.36	0.080936
43	50/2	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
44	51	Private	Dry	1542.84	0.154284
45	56/10	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
46	56/11	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
47	56/2	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
48	56/3	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
49	56/4	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
50	56/6	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
51	56/7	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
52	56/8	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
53	56/9	Private	Dry	75.878	0.0075878
54	57/1A2	Common	Dry	101.17	0.010117
55	57/1B	Common	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
56	57/2C	Common	Dry	303.51	0.030351
57	62/3	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
58	64/12	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
59	64/15	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
60	64/1B	Private	Dry	429.973	0.0429973
61	64/3A1	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
62	64/3A2	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
63	64/3C	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
64	64/6	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
65	64/7	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
66	64/9	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
67	67	Private	Dry/NAK	2505.13	0.250513
68	68	Government	Dry	940.408	0.0940408
Village: Nyayagere					
69	101	Private	Dry	7258.95	0.725895
70	15/19	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
71	15/2	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
72	15/20	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
73	15/21	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
74	15/23	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
75	15/25	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
76	15/3B	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
77	15/8	Private	Dry	227.632	0.0227632
78	25/1A	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
79	70	Private	Dry/NAK	354.095	0.0354095
80	75/1	Private	Dry	910.53	0.091053
81	75/3	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
Village: Halkuru					
82	101/2	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
83	108	Private	Dry	1163.45	0.116345
84	109	Private	Dry	4603.23	0.460323
85	114	Private	Dry	809.36	0.080936
86	115	Private	Dry	1062.29	0.106229
87	30	Private	Dry	4603.23	0.460323
88	36/13	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
89	36/17	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
90	37/1	Private	Dry	177.0475	0.0177048
91	38/8	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
92	38/9	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
93	38/9	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
94	40/2	Private	Dry	252.925	0.0252925
95	40/5	Private	Dry	75.878	0.0075878
96	40/6	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
97	41/1F2	Private	Dry	1416.38	0.141638
98	41/F1	Private	Dry	1391.09	0.139109
Village: Halkuru Kaval					
99	67/2	Private	Dry	1087.58	0.108758
100	68/2	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
101	70	Private	Dry	834.653	0.0834653
102	71	Private	Dry	632.313	0.0632313
103	72	Private	Dry	3439.78	0.343978
Village: Gummanahalli					
104	39/4	Private	Garden	708.19	0.070819
105	45/1	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
106	45/3	Private	Garden	859.945	0.0859945
107	46/2	Private	Dry	75.878	0.0075878
108	47/1A1	Private	Garden	531.143	0.0531143
109	47/1B	Private	Garden	2276.32	0.227632
110	48/1A	Private	Garden	733.482	0.0733482
111	54/1A	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
112	54/3	Private	Dry	3566.24	0.356624
113	55/1	Private	Garden	1517.55	0.151755
114	77/18	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
115	77/20	Private	Dry	632.313	0.0632313
116	77/6	Private	Dry	480.558	0.0480558
117	77/9	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
Village: Emmerahalli					
118	32/3	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
119	32/4	Private	Dry	429.9725	0.0429973
120	32/8	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
121	4/1	Private	NAK	5362.01	0.536201
122	4/2	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
123	6/1	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
124	6/21	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
125	6/4	Private	Dry	177.048	0.0177048
126	6/5	Private	Dry	126.463	0.0126463
Village: Teggahalli					
127	1/6	Private	Dry	1188.75	0.118875
128	9/1	Private	Dry	708.19	0.070819
129	9/4	Private	Dry	505.85	0.050585
130	9/5	Private	Dry	2579.84	0.257984
131	9/6	Private	Dry	2099.28	0.209928
Village: Rathnasandra					
132	146	Private	Kharab/ Dry	2225.74	0.222574
Taluk: Madhugiri					
Village: Lakshmipura (Venkatapura)					
133	6/1	Private	Wet	404.68	0.040468
134	7/1	Private	Wet	101.17	0.010117
Village: Dodderi					
135	120/2	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
136	123/2	Private	Dry	278.217	0.0278217
137	124/2	Private	Garden	126.463	0.0126463
138	139/4B	Private	Wet	25.293	0.0025293
139	139/4C1	Private	Wet	101.17	0.010117
140	139/4C2	Private	Wet	75.878	0.0075878
141	141	Private	Wet	455.265	0.0455265
142	142/3	Private	Dry/Garden	101.17	0.010117
143	143	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
144	144/9B	Common	Kharab/ Dry	151.755	0.0151755
Village: Badavanahalli					
145	186/1	Private	Dry	505.85	0.050585
146	186/2	Private	Dry	455.265	0.0455265
147	186/3	Private	Dry	607.02	0.060702
148	186/4	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
149	186/5	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
150	193/1	Private	Dry	379.387	0.0379387
151	193/2	Private	Dry	733.482	0.0733482
152	193/3	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
153	193/4	Private	Dry	581.727	0.0581727
154	193/5	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
155	206	Private	Dry	885.237	0.0885237
156	207	Private	Dry	758.775	0.0758775
157	228/1	Private	Dry	758.775	0.0758775
158	229/1	Private	Dry	252.925	0.0252925
159	229/2	Private	Dry	455.265	0.0455265
160	229/3	Private	Dry	531.143	0.0531143
161	229/4	Private	Dry	607.02	0.060702
162	40/4B	Private	NAK	50.585	0.0050585
163	40/5B	Private	NAK	50.585	0.0050585
164	40/6	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
165	44/4	Private	Dry	202.34	0.020234
166	46/2	Private	Dry/Garden	354.095	0.0354095
167	47	Private	Kharab/ Dry	101.17	0.010117
168	55	Private	Kharab/ Dry	1972.82	0.197282
Village: Appanahalli					
169	28/14	Private	Dry	379.387	0.0379387
170	28/5	Private	Dry	1011.7	0.10117
171	29/1	Private	Garden	682.898	0.0682898
172	29/11	Private	Garden	252.925	0.0252925
173	29/12	Private	Garden	252.925	0.0252925
174	29/2	Private	NAK	632.313	0.0632313
175	29/5	Private	Garden	278.217	0.0278217
176	29/6	Private	Garden	252.925	0.0252925
177	29/7	Private	Garden	480.558	0.0480558
178	30/14	Private	Dry	126.4625	0.0126463
179	30/3	Private	NAK	101.17	0.010117
180	30/7	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
181	32/10	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
182	32/7B	Private	NAK	227.632	0.0227632
183	32/8	Private	Kharab/NAK	227.632	0.0227632
184	32/9	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
185	48/1	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
186	49/1	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
187	60	Private	Dry	328.803	0.0328803
188	61/1	Private	Dry	101.17	0.010117
189	62/1	Private	Dry	151.755	0.0151755
190	63/2	Private	Dry	227.632	0.0227632
191	64/2	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
192	65	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
193	66	Private	Dry	278.217	0.0278217
194	67	Private	Dry	328.803	0.0328803
195	68/5	Private	Dry	379.3875	0.0379387
196	69/4	Private	Dry	303.51	0.030351
197	70	Private	Dry	1542.84	0.154284
Village: Badavanahalli Amrutmahal Kaval					
198	180	Private	Kharab	556.435	0.0556435
199	185	Private	Dry	1441.67	0.144167
200	186	Private	Dry	354.095	0.0354095
201	189	Private	Dry	1568.13	0.156813
202	190	Private	Dry	1289.9175	0.128992
203	191	Private	Dry	2276.32	0.227632
204	195	Private	Dry	1593.43	0.159343
205	199	Private	Dry	429.973	0.0429973
206	200	Private	Dry	1846.35	0.184635
207	202	Private	Dry	1188.7475	0.118875
208	204	Private	Dry	404.68	0.040468
209	206	Private	Dry	2099.28	0.209928
Village: Konnahalli					
210	10	Private	Dry/NAK	2984.51	0.298451
211	104	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
212	110	Private	Dry	227.632	0.0227632
213	112	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
214	116	Private	Dry	50.585	0.0050585
215	144	Private	Dry	354.095	0.0354095
216	20/2	Private	Dry/NAK	25.293	0.0025293
217	218	Private	Dry	1694.6	0.16946
218	55	Private	Kharab	101.17	0.010117
219	6/3A	Private	Wet	25.293	0.0025293
220	75/1	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
221	75/5	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
222	75/6	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
223	75/7	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
224	79	Private	Dry	758.775	0.0758775
225	83/6	Private	Dry	429.973	0.0429973
Village: Konapanayakanahalli					
226	23	Private	Garden	278.2175	0.0278217
227	24/1	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
				Total	**13.7565362**

[F. No. CNH/TA-3/AE-4/NH-69/3(a) 2024-25/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Japan prepares to restart world's biggest nuclear plant

NIIGATA, REUTERS: Japan is set to take the final step to restart the world's largest nuclear power plant on Monday when the region of Niigata votes on the resumption of operations, in a watershed moment for the country's pivot back to nuclear energy nearly 15 years after the Fukushima disaster.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, located about 220 km northwest of Tokyo, was among 54 reactors shut after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami crippled the Fukushima Daiichi plant in the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. Since then, Japan has restarted 14 of the 33 that remain operable, as it tries to wean itself off imported fossil fuels. Kashiwazaki-Kariwa will be the first operated by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), which ran the doomed Fukushima plant.

Around 300 protesters, mostly older people, holding banners reading 'No Nukes', 'We oppose the restart of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa' and 'Support Fukushima' gathered in front of the Niigata prefecture assembly on a chilly, grey Monday, as local lawmakers prepared to make their decision later in the day.

As the rally started, in temperatures of 6 degrees Celsius (42.8 degrees Fahrenheit) ahead of the vote, people were singing 'Furusato' - a national song about connection to a birthplace, meaning 'homeland' in Japanese. "Is TEPCO qualified to run Kashiwazaki-Kariwa?", a protester asked into the microphone, with the crowd yelling: "No!" If approved, TEPCO is considering reactivating the first of seven reactors at the plant on January 20, public broadcaster NHK reported.

"We remain firmly committed to never repeating such an accident and ensuring Niigata residents never experience anything similar," said TEPCO spokesperson Masakatsu Takata.

Denmark, Greenland reject Trump envoy move, assert sovereignty

The mission is to make Greenland a part of the US, says Jeff Landry

COPENHAGEN (DENMARK), AP/PTI

Trump's Greenland envoy Jeff Landry speaks at a christening ceremony for the ECO Liberty at the Port of New Orleans. REUTERS FILE

The leaders of Denmark and Greenland on Monday insisted that the US will not take over Greenland and demanded respect for their territorial integrity after President Donald Trump announced the appointment of a special envoy to Greenland.

Trump's announcement on Sunday that Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry would serve as the US special envoy triggered a fresh flare-up of tensions over Washington's interest in the vast, semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, a NATO ally.

"We have said it before. Now, we say it again. National borders and the sovereignty of states are rooted in international law," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her Greenlandic counterpart, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, said in a joint statement.

"They are fundamental principles. You cannot annex another country — not even with an argument about international security."

"Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders," they added in the statement. Trump has repeatedly called during his presidential transition and the early months of his second term for US jurisdiction over Greenland and has not ruled out the use of military force to take control of the mineral-rich island.

On Sunday, Trump announced Landry's appointment, saying that "Jeff understands how essential Greenland is to our national security, and will strongly advance our country's interests for the safety, security and survival of our allies—and indeed, the world."

Landry wrote in a post on X that "it's an honour to serve you in this volunteer position to make Greenland a part of the US."

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said in a brief statement that "the appointment confirms the continued American interest in Greenland".

Denmark summons US ambassador

Denmark said Monday it would summon the US ambassador after President Donald Trump appointed a special envoy to Greenland who immediately vowed to make the Danish autonomous territory "a part of the US", AFP reports from Copenhagen.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has repeatedly said the US needs the resource-rich Arctic island for security reasons, and has refused to rule out using force to secure it. On Sunday, Trump appointed Louisiana governor Jeff Landry as special envoy to Greenland. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said Monday he was "deeply angered" by the move and warned Washington to respect Denmark's sovereignty, with the EU later offering its "full solidarity".

Car blast kills Russian general

MOSCOW, AFP

A car bomb killed a senior Russian general in southern Moscow on Monday morning as officials reported "slow progress" in talks with the United States on how to end the war in Ukraine.

Top negotiators from both Russia and Ukraine were in Miami over the weekend for separate meetings with US officials seeking to break the deadlock on a deal to end almost four years of fighting, triggered by Moscow's all-out offensive on its neighbour in 2022.

Kyiv has not commented on the blast, the latest in a string of similar incidents, but Russian investigators said they suspected it was "linked" to "Ukrainian special forces".

The attack had the hallmarks of other assassinations of generals and pro-war figures that have either been claimed or are widely believed to have been orchestrated by Ukraine.

Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, 56, head of the Russian General Staff's training department, was killed when the bomb, which had been placed under his parked car, detonated in a residential quarter of southern Moscow.

AFP reporters at the scene saw a mangled white Kia SUV, its doors and back window blown out. The frame was twisted and charred from the blast. The scene had been cordoned off by security forces, and investigators were sifting through the debris. Eyewitnesses reported a loud bang.

"We absolutely didn't expect it. We thought we were safe, and then this happens right next to us," local resident, Tatiana, 74, told AFP. "The windows rattled, you could tell it was an explosion," said Grigory, 70, who also declined to give his surname. "We need to treat it more calmly," he added.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it was "working through various lines of enquiry into the murder."

US pursues another tanker near Venezuela

MIAMI, AP/PTI

The US Coast Guard on Sunday was pursuing another sanctioned oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea as the Trump administration appeared to be intensifying its targeting of such vessels connected to the Venezuelan government.

The pursuit of the tanker, which was confirmed by a US official briefed on the operation, comes after the US administration announced Saturday it had seized a tanker for the second time in less than two weeks. The official, who was not authorised to comment publicly about the ongoing operation and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Sunday's pursuit involved "a sanctioned dark fleet vessel that is part of Venezuela's illegal sanctions evasion."

The official said the vessel was flying a false flag and under a judicial seizure order.

The Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the US Coast Guard, deferred questions about the operation to the White House, which did not offer comment on the operation.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pedestrians walk past an illuminated Christmas decoration in Thessaloniki, Greece, on Monday. AFP

130 schoolchildren and staff abducted in Nigeria released

▶ Some 130 schoolchildren and staff abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school last month by gunmen have been released, police said on Sunday, AP/PTI reports Abuja.

Gunmen seized at least 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers in Nigeria's north-central Niger state when they attacked St. Mary's Catholic School in the Papiri community on November 21. Fifty escaped in the hours that followed, and 100 schoolchildren were freed earlier this month. Niger State police spokesperson Wasiu Abiodun said in a statement that "the remaining batch of the abducted students" has now been released. "A total number of 130 victims, including the staff, have been released," Abiodun said. When asked about the 35 unaccounted-for schoolchildren and missing teachers, Abiodun told The Associated Press: "Further details will be communicated." Presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga said in a post on X that the "remaining 130 schoolchildren abducted" have been released. He said the released schoolchildren would arrive in Minna, the Niger state capital, on Monday and rejoin their parents for Christmas.

Smuggling: Indian man held in UK

▶ A 29-year-old Indian national was arrested in Birmingham on Monday as part of an investigation into the advertising of people smuggling services on social media, PTI reports from London.

The unnamed man is suspected of working on behalf of an organised crime network moving illegal migrants in trucks. He was arrested on suspicion of "facilitating illegal immigration" following a joint NCA and West Midlands Police investigation. "A man has been arrested in Birmingham as part of a joint National Crime Agency and West Midlands Police investigation into the advertising of people smuggling services on social media," the NCA said. "The 29-year-old Indian national... is suspected of working on behalf of an organised crime network moving people in the backs of lorries."

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Core sector output growth rebounds to 1.8% in Nov

Production of cement, steel, fertilisers, coal rise

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Output of core infrastructure sectors that include cement, steel, fertilisers and energy products, posted a growth of 1.8% in November, marking a rebound from the contraction in the previous month, official data showed on Monday.

The rebound was led by strong growth in output of cement, steel, fertilisers and coal. Cement production in November was 14.5% higher, when compared with the same month last year. Steel output was 6.1% higher, while production of fertilisers and coal was 5.6% and 2.1% higher, respectively.

The key infrastructure sector as measured by the Index of Eight Core Industries had posted a contraction of 0.1% on a year-on-year basis in October.

While there is improvement in the growth on a sequential basis, on a year-on-year basis the situation is worse. In November 2024, core sector growth was recorded at 5.8%. The cumulative growth in output of the eight core industries during the April-November period of the current fiscal stood at 2.4%, as per Ministry of Commerce and Industry data.

The eight core industries that include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, have a 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

"While core sector growth expectedly improved in November 2025, after the festive season, it remained tepid at 1.8%. The sequential improvement in year-on-year growth between October and November was led by a majority of the sectors, with a particularly sharp pickup in cement (to 14.5% from 5.2%)," said ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar.

"Given the base effects and shift in the festive calendar, it would be more prudent to assess the average for October and November 2025, which stands at a meagre 0.8%, lower than the average growth of 3.0% recorded in H1FY2026. Based on the core sector growth and other high-frequency indicators, we expect the IIP to rise by 3.5-4.5% in November 2025," she added.

There was contraction in production of energy-linked segments. Crude oil production in November was 3.2% lower, when compared with the same month last year.

Natural gas production declined 2.5% year-on-year, while petroleum refinery output was 0.9% lower, when compared with the same month last year.

Electricity generation, which has 19.85% weight in the index of eight core industries, fell by 2.2% in November, over the same month last year. In the first eight months of the current fiscal, electricity output was 0.3% lower, when compared with the same period last year.

Foxconn hires 30k in 8 months at Devanahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: Foxconn's (Hon Hai Precision Industry Co) new Apple iPhone unit in Devanahalli near here, is setting new benchmarks for manufacturing in India.

The company has created 30,000 jobs in just eight months, of which about 80% constitute women workers.

The Taiwan-based company has so far invested Rs 20,000 crore in this manufacturing plant, which is spread across a 300-acre campus.

In just about eight months since being commissioned, the plant has achieved the fastest ramp-up by any facility in India. It aims to employ 50,000 workers by 2026, Karnataka IT/BT, Science and Technology Minister Priyank Kharge said in a post on X.

The company exports 80% of its production from this facility.

"Karnataka is India's leading ESDM investment hub and a major chip design cluster. We now account for 50% of India's electronic product companies, 40% of electronic design and 10% of national electronics output. Anchored by our robust ESDM Policy, we are creating a powerhouse ecosystem for electronics design and high-volume manufacturing," Kharge said.

Foxconn commissioned the iPhone factory in Devanahalli in April-May, this year. It started with the manufacturing of iPhone 16, and is now producing iPhone 17 Pro Max models.

The company provides 6 weeks of training to all its employees before deploying them on the shopfloor, he said.

Foxconn also has a factory in Sriperumbudur, on the outskirts of Chennai and another unit in Hyderabad.

Shriram Group to retain mgmt control in SFL

NEW DELHI, DHNS

With its proposed Rs 39,618 crore ($4.4 billion) investment, Japan's MUFG Bank will acquire a minority stake of 20% in Shriram Finance (SFL), and board and management control of the company will remain in the hands of the Chennai-headquartered conglomerate Shriram Group, top executives from the two companies said on Monday.

"MUFG will be classified as a minority public shareholder with the right to appoint two nominee directors," said Yasushi Itagaki, Group Head of the Global Commercial Banking Business Group, MUFG.

Addressing reporters, Itagaki also ruled out any proposal to change the name of the company.

The Board of Directors of SFL at their meeting on Monday approved entering into definitive agreements with MUFG Bank, for an investment of Rs 39,618 crore in SFL through a preferential issuance of equity shares.

After MUFG's investment, the Japanese company will hold 20%, other public shareholders 59.7%, and promoters 20.3%, in SFL.

"This transaction marks a defining moment in our growth journey. MUFG is one of the largest financial institutions, with an extensive international network and strong values rooted in substantial growth and financial inclusion," said SFL Executive Vice-Chairman Umesh Revankar.

"The entry of MUFG as a key investor reinforces global confidence in India's financial services sector and our role as a leader within it. Together, we aim to strengthen our capabilities, drive economic progress, and create meaningful impact across communities, building a future-ready institution anchored in trust and good governance," he added.

Revankar stated that the fund infusion by MUFG will significantly enhance Shriram Finance's capital adequacy, strengthen its balance sheet, and provide long-term growth capital.

QUICK DELIVERIES

How Bengaluru 'Instamarted': Rs 68,600 in tips to tiny Rs 10 carts

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru is known as the tech capital, but quick commerce platform Instamart's data also showed that the city is the tipping capital, as a local dropped Rs 68,600 in tips in 2025. From the tiniest cart of Rs 10 on a printout, to a 1-KG silver brick worth Rs 1,97,000, the city ordered for every kind of need. On Valentine's Day, Bengaluru made 1,780 orders per minute for roses and chocolates combined. Interestingly, one Bengaluru account on Instamart shelled out Rs 4,36,153 on noodles alone.

Big-ticket carts shone bright, said Instamart, as a gadget enthusiast in Hyderabad spent Rs 4.3 lakh on three iPhone 17s in a single tap, and a Noida techno-holic spent Rs 2.69 lakh on Bluetooth speakers, SSDs (solid-state drives), and robotic vacuum cleaners in a single swoop. On Dhanteras, the platform witnessed a surge in gold orders, with more than 400% growth over 2024 orders.

Across repeat orders in 2025, the top spender of 2025 clocked over Rs 22 lakh on the platform, adding everything to cart, from 22 iPhone 17s, 24K gold coins, a Philips air fryer, and even everyday items such as boxes of Tic Tac (a popular brand of breath mints), milk, eggs, ice cream, and fresh fruits.

Two-minute noodles were delivered in under 2 minutes and smartphones in 3 minutes, the platform said. In Lucknow, a Maggi Magic Masala Noodles pack reached a hungry user in under two minutes. While the world queued up outside Apple Stores, two users in Pune and Ahmedabad had their phones delivered in less than three minutes.

Kolkata (1,197 orders) stood first in terms of users who crossed the 1,000-order mark in 2025.

Sarla Aviation's eVTOL platform undergoes ground-testing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sarla Aviation commenced ground-testing for its half-scale electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) demonstrator, SYLLA SYL-X1, at its Bengaluru test facility on Monday. With a 7.5-metre wingspan, the SYL-X1 represents the largest and most-advanced private eVTOL demonstrator of its kind currently under development in India, the company said in a statement.

With ground-testing underway, Sarla Aviation's air taxi programme is entering its core validation phase, moving beyond digital concepts and laboratory-scale experimentation into real aircraft-scale testing. Accordingly, the current eVTOL demonstrator is a functional sub-scale aircraft, purpose-built to validate structural behaviour, propulsion integration, and system-level safety architecture at meaningful scale.

Meanwhile, Sarla Aviation also delivered a full-scale static aircraft for national showcase at Bharat Mobility, while raising $13 million in funding to strengthen long-term execution capability.

Sensex up 638 pts amid global trends

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark Sensex jumped by 638 points, while the broader Nifty closed above 26,100 on Monday, following heavy buying in IT, auto and metal shares, amid foreign fund inflows and a rally in global markets on hopes of further rate cuts by the Fed.

Building on the previous session's rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 638.12 points or 0.75% to settle at 85,567.48. During the day, it surged 671.97 points or 0.79% to 85,601.33. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 206 points or 0.79% to close above the 26,100 mark at 26,172.40.

Among Sensex firms, Trent rose the most by 3.56%. IT shares Infosys jumped 3.06%, Tech Mahindra by 2.09%, HCL Tech by 1.67% and TCS by 1.28%. However, SBI fell the most by 0.6%, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, L&T and Titan.

Rethinking high school education from NIOS

AISHWARYA RAO

Educationalists have long complained about the lack of flexibility and adaptability in the Indian education system, raising questions about the quality of the nation's educational landscape. Since the NEP 2020 was proposed in the Parliament, the discussion, although more focused on higher education, has intensified. The reform emphasises the modernisation of Indian education, elevating it to the equivalent, at least in terms of age group and learning outcomes, of the norms set by regulatory bodies worldwide.

This discourse must also emphasise high school education, because career choices and academic futures typically hinge on decisions made at this juncture. However, aligning the education infrastructure with the promises of the New Education Policy 2020 is likely a long-term national project, regardless of how urgent the need may be. Until then, NIOS is the most effective enabler of the two central values codified in the NEP: inclusivity and flexibility.

According to a news report published on November 2, 2025, Karnataka saw a 120% jump

in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) enrollment. The spike was driven by three MoUs aimed at bringing quality high school education to the doorsteps of minority communities, rural citizens, and those who have had to drop out of school.

In terms of flexibility, the educational board has gained traction among learners balancing their ambitions beyond academia, preparing for entrance exams, or pursuing a flexible, comprehensive development roadmap through pre-college distance education.

We have all read reports about how learners from Karnataka, especially JEE and NEET aspirants, are increasingly opting for the NIOS higher secondary course. Anyone who has worked in the education sector long enough would attest that the choice has also become popular beyond Karnataka.

This indicates that perceptions of homeschooling or switching boards have changed. What was once signalled as academic incompetence is now a strategic move for ambitious learners seeking admission to the country's leading institutions.

The flexibility also appeals to those undergoing athletic training for district or national representation in sports, or to those passionate about hands-on careers who remain keen to acquire a school-level education in traditional subjects rather than full-fledged vocational education. NIOS, with its flexible examination schedule, has enabled athletes to pursue training and competition without disrupting their education.

Conversely, NIOS allows learners to spread their exams across the public exams, held twice a year, and the two sets of on-demand exams in months without public exams. Naturally, the flexible exam schedule option helps accommodate additional commitments, including sports and vocational training, as well as learning difficulties.

Generational shift in priorities

Another notable change in educational approaches is that millennial parents' priorities differ from those of their parents. Education experts, consultants, advisors, and child psychologists note that today's parents are focused on ensuring that their wards have a different school experience. They value future-proof, employable skills, readiness for international education or opportunities, an eager outlook on learning, and the learner's leeway to pursue their calling over rote learning and fear-driven commitment to education.

Hence, parents now often select schools first and boards second, reversing the old decision hierarchy. This also means greater openness to open schooling, provided the learner has the desired exposure. In this regard, NIOS fits squarely in the picture because many brick-and-mortar schools allow either double enrollment or are dedicated study centres with added facilities and a flexible schedule accommodating the learner's needs.

These schools, attuned to their learners' aspirations, offer several benefits beyond a flexible schedule. Regularly held classes ensure discipline and make it easy to clear doubts. Moreover, beyond the five to seven subjects required to complete their board exams, the world-class study-centre-cum-school also offers extracurricular activities, opportunities to interact with peers, and the benefits of affiliation with full-time boards.

Additionally, many learners attending these advanced, hybrid schools leverage their time and the school resources to build portfolios and skill sets that universities abroad reward. The respective proofs of learning strengthen their application.

NIOS study resources undergo the same degree of scrutiny as those from popular boards such as the CBSE, as it is also a national board with NCERT textbooks. It is safe to say that NIOS is driving a quiet revolution as end-stakeholders increasingly take charge of their education.

(The writer is the director of a Bengaluru-based education institution)

Choosing a coaching centre

Ali Khwaja decodes the kind of coaching that elevates the student's capability without any mental burden

Coaching for competitive entrance exams, particularly JEE and NEET, has been steadily increasing over the years. Students are subjected to long hours of 'training', sometimes from middle school onward. Cities where such coaching institutes have mushroomed have been recording student self-harm incidents, whose number is suspected to be much higher than what is reported.

Coaching is expensive and requires long hours of classes beyond regular coursework. Nevertheless, demand continues to grow, while students dream of higher marks and better careers. Are such institutes useful?

First, parents should determine whether their child has the aptitude and skills required for a career in technology or medicine, as most coaching focuses on either medical or engineering entrance exams. They should be provided with sufficient information, guidance, and exposure to diverse careers, rather than the impression that only engineering or medicine offers a stable future.

Two sides of the coin

Our education system has been designed to provide a strong, all-round foundation through Class 12. This is why Indian students continue to outperform their Western counterparts and secure top positions in prestigious organisations abroad.

Hence, diluting regular academic instruction to accommodate entrance exam coaching may leave the student with less education or a poorer understanding of concepts. It is also likely to promote further 'rote-learning'.

Rigorous coaching can cause significant stress among students due to long hours, intense competitive pressure, and a lack of individualised attention. This environment contributes to academic overload, exhaustion, anxiety, and depression by combining extended study hours with school and homework, leaving little time for relaxation or extracurricular activities.

The government has also taken note of "dummy schools and PU colleges". Department of PU Education, Government of Karnataka, has issued directives prohibiting PU colleges from conducting entrance coaching classes on their campuses. The Karnataka Unaided PU College Management Association (KUPMA) claims that there are at least 50 such dummy schools in Bengaluru alone. Its secretary, Narendra L Nayak, stated that they have made a representation to the government to curb them.

In 2024, the Government of India issued directives for coaching centres, focusing on regulating misleading advertisements, ensuring fair contracts, promoting student welfare, and enforcing transparency. They were instructed to provide accurate information in ads, obtain consent to use student testimonials, offer pro rata refunds for dropped courses, maintain weekly days off and reasonable class hours, and adhere to safety and building codes.

In November this year, a Lok Sabha bulletin announced that a parliamentary standing committee has initiated a comprehensive review of the coaching process, including mental health support systems for students.

Many genuine centres do follow these guidelines. In Karnataka, many centres provide high-quality care and establish effective routines, particularly in residential facilities, so that even average students develop the motivation and habit of studying regularly and achieve their goals. It is crucial to identify such institutions, as some unscrupulous ones are tarnishing the entire coaching industry.

The intense focus on high rankings can also diminish a student's sense of self-worth, leading to feelings of being overwhelmed and a heightened risk of mental health issues. Balanced coaching can provide the necessary inputs for students to obtain proper guidelines for cracking competitive exams, even in the future.

Tread wisely

The founder of a reputed coaching institute, on condition of anonymity, said, "We explain to the parents clearly that we are not enhancing the basic learning of the student. We are training them to use their existing knowledge to ace the competitive exams using correct techniques and constant practice."

Parents who cannot afford expensive coaching sometimes take loans to enrol their child in coaching centres that claim fantastic results, without evaluating the likelihood that the child can succeed.

Each year, many students secure merit seats at prestigious professional institutions by studying previous years' question papers and preparing independently, but their numbers are decreasing. Media reports recently said that only 46 students from government-run PU colleges secured medical seats this year because these institutions do not offer integrated coaching. Online coaching is offered, but experts say that it is less effective than in-person coaching. This scenario is widening the gap between the haves and have-nots.

After rigorous training over many years to gain admission to IIT, some students experience burnout before or after joining IIT. A former dean of student affairs at IIT Bombay noted that he had to deal with many students who felt that, after years of continuous study, they deserved to be treated specially for being among the select few.

In engineering, many reputable private universities have emerged, providing high-quality education, and admission is less competitive than at IITs. With reasonable preparation, a capable student can gain admission to one of these and expect a successful career.

The right path would be to provide each child with broad exposure to all available careers from an early age, gradually aligning their aptitude with their interests, and then begin narrowing their focus to specific careers. Whether in engineering or medicine, parents should evaluate their child's capacity to pass entrance exams and, accordingly, determine whether to enrol them in coaching, which class to enrol them in, or to allow them to prepare independently.

If coaching is required, one should select a coaching institute that does not interfere with regular academic work and provides systematic study techniques without placing undue pressure on the student. Regular monitoring and counselling for stress management and the maintenance of good mental health should be provided for the student until the exams are over.

(The write is an academic counsellor)

BULLETIN BOARD

Digital marketing internship
Pawzz Foundation is hiring digital marketing interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of creative writing, digital marketing, email marketing, spoken and written English proficiency, Facebook, Instagram and social media marketing, search engine marketing, and search engine optimisation can apply by January 14. The stipend is Rs 1,500-15,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/AaFt9.

Graphic design internship
Fitbae Healthcare Private Limited is hiring graphic design interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe Creative Suite, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, and video editing can apply by January 16. The stipend is Rs 3,000-5,000/month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/3ajvkvrm.

Programme manager internship
Airtribe is hiring a programme manager intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of client relationships, community management, effective communication, and interpersonal skills can apply by January 16. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000 /month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/5n83aafk.

Copywriting & content
Brand Scale-Up Inc. is hiring copywriting & content strategy interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of copywriting and creative writing, proficiency in spoken and written English, spoken Hindi, and social media marketing can apply by January 15. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000 /month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/yc65ze5s.

Should I write notes?

SAHANA PRASAD

"No notes or slides will be shared; you have to note down the concepts taught," I make it clear in the first class of all batches. It is usually met with angry, accusatory looks.

In an age when lecture slides are shared online, recordings are available on demand, and information is just a click away, many students have lost the ability to make notes, to understand what is important, what might help in the future, and what need not be written. Taking notes is not copying what is being said in class; it is about thinking, processing, and learning in real time. This is an important, practical academic skill a student must develop.

"Taking notes during lecture hours, especially writing by hand on paper, shows a strong correlation to deeper, reinforced learning," says Dr Hongray, Dean of Student Affairs at RV University, Bengaluru. "This allows students to be engaged in the class and keeps their focus," he opines.

■ **Actively engaging the brain:** It's very easy to listen passively. After a few minutes, the mind lulls and learning takes a back seat. When students take notes during a class, they are forced to make quick decisions: What is essential? How does this idea connect to what I already know? How should I phrase this in my own words? These decisions activate higher-order thinking skills, including analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

■ **Improving understanding, not just memory:** Note-taking is a skill; it doesn't contain just the teacher's words. When students summarise ideas, draw diagrams, write examples, or underline keywords, they are reorganising information in a way that makes sense to them personally. This process deepens understanding.

■ **Classroom notes:** No textbook or slide deck can fully capture the richness of a live classroom. Teachers emphasise specific points, give real-world examples, share exam hints, repeat ideas for emphasis, or explain common mistakes. Students who rely solely on shared notes or recordings often miss context.

■ **Building focus and reducing distraction:** Classrooms today compete with smartphones, notifications, and wandering attention spans. Note-taking provides an anchor. When students are writing, they are less likely to drift mentally or reach for their phones. The act of taking notes creates a rhythm that keeps the mind engaged with the lecture.

■ **Powerful tools for revision:** When exams approach, students face an overwhelming amount of material. Well-organised class notes act as a roadmap. They highlight key ideas, link topics together, and reduce the need to reread entire textbooks.

Importantly, notes taken during class feel familiar. Students remember the moment they wrote them, the explanation they heard, and sometimes even the question that triggered that note. This familiarity accelerates revision and increases confidence.

Students who skip note-taking often discover — too late — that recordings are time-consuming, slides are incomplete, and textbooks are dense. Notes save time when it matters most.

■ **Ownership of learning:** "Taking notes sends a subtle but important message: This learning belongs to me," says Tara Jain, who is a councillor at a city university. Over time, they develop a personal system — headings, symbols, abbreviations, diagrams — that reflects how they think. This sense of ownership increases responsibility and independence.

■ **Development of a lifeong skill:** The importance of note-taking does not end with school or college. Professionals take notes during meetings, training sessions, conferences, and discussions. Doctors, engineers, managers, researchers, and artists all rely on note-taking to process complex information and make decisions.

■ **A skill, not a talent:** Many students believe they are "bad" at note-taking. The truth is more straightforward: note-taking improves with practice. Students do not need to write everything — just the right things. Learning to identify main ideas, use bullet points, create simple diagrams, and leave space for later additions makes notes far more effective. Notes need not be elegant; they may consist only of points or even of lettering in the student's language.

Thus, note-taking is a powerful learning strategy that improves focus, deepens understanding, strengthens memory, and supports long-term success. In a world overflowing with information, the ability to capture, organise, and make sense of ideas is more valuable than ever.

(The writer is an academic)

Grooming future forensic experts in early STEM stage

ANURAG GUPTA

When discussing a student's career or field of interest, we typically consider the choices they make after 12th grade. However, students begin building their foundation much earlier than we realise.

For example, imagine a child thinking: Why does the colour of the sky change from blue to orange in the evening? How does a simple flower grow into a fruit? How does snow travel to become river water? These small steps are not merely expressions of curiosity but the first steps toward developing scientific thinking.

Forensics is often portrayed as a field characterised by high-tech laboratories, intricate casework, and rapid breakthroughs. But behind every forensic expert lies a strong foundation of curiosity, scientific discipline, and problem-solving abilities, qualities that early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning naturally nurtures.

Curiosity begins in classrooms

In a school in Gurugram that I visited, a group of Class 4 students was conducting experiments on how different powders react when mixed with vinegar. They were not learning forensics; they were simply exploring chemical reactions as part of a science activity. But what stayed with me was one student's reaction: "If two things look the same, how do we know they are not the same?"

This question is, in essence, the beginning of forensic thinking. Forensic experts rely heavily on identifying, differentiating, and analysing small details that most people overlook. When children learn to question why two similar-looking substances behave differently, or why certain materials leave specific residues, they are unknowingly developing the habits that underpin forensic practice.

Forensic science demands exceptional observational abilities; a misplaced object or an unusual pattern can alter the course of an investigation. Observation does not develop suddenly; it emerges through repeated exposure to structured scientific activities.

During a workshop in Dehradun, I saw another simple but powerful moment. Students were building small robotic cars with light sensors. One child pointed out, "My robot is turning even when the light is not so bright. Something is wrong." He then checked each wire connection, tested different light sources, and ultimately resolved the issue. This wasn't just robotics; it was early training in noticing anomalies, isolating variables, and connecting cause with effect.

These are the same habits a forensic investigator uses at a crime scene: What is out of place? What could have caused this? Which variable changed? Early STEM learning doesn't teach crime-solving directly, but it builds a mindset capable of it.

Hands-on learning

Modern forensics relies on advanced technologies like AI-driven analysis, digital forensics, 3D crime reconstruction, DNA sequencing, and more. For future professionals, familiarity with tools, technology and logical interfaces becomes an advantage.

Children today who engage with STEM labs, robotics kits, coding platforms, and simple sensor-based experiments develop an ease with technology early in life. Years ago, a student from a rural school in Uttar Pradesh shared something very telling after assembling his first basic circuit: "If I can understand this, I think I can understand anything that works with logic."

This confidence is invaluable. Forensic science can appear intimidating to new learners. However, children who grow up decoding patterns, using small devices, or building mechanical models approach advanced tools with curiosity rather than fear.

Every forensic investigation is essentially a problem waiting to be solved. Evidence rarely presents itself neatly. Investigators work backwards, testing hypotheses, eliminating errors, and following logical sequences, a process identical to what STEM education encourages.

When students participate in STEM challenges, whether it is debugging a code, balancing forces in a bridge model, or designing a small machine that performs a task, they learn a crucial skill: failure is data. What didn't work often teaches more than what did.

Ethics, discipline and scientific temper

Young learners exposed to STEM disciplines also develop a respect for procedures, data integrity, and systematic documentation, all of which are critical to forensic science. Science experiments teach children that data cannot be manipulated and observations must be recorded correctly. These small classroom behaviours later evolve into professional ethics.

In one classroom in Jaipur, a student insisted on redoing her chemistry experiment because she felt she had not measured the solution correctly the first time. Her teacher praised her integrity more than her final result. That moment demonstrated the roots of scientific honesty, an attribute deeply valued in forensic laboratories, where accuracy and ethics directly impact justice.

The technology is growing in India, and so are the crime rates. Therefore, there is a need for forensic experts who understand science well, think critically, and are proficient in technology.

Starting early is always good, and when these children are introduced to STEM learning, they become better prepared for the future. It shapes children who are unafraid to explore, patient in the face of failure, keen observers, and grounded in logic. These qualities form the backbone of the forensic professionals we will rely on in the future.

By giving children opportunities to experiment, question, observe, and build today, we are quietly preparing them for some of the most challenging and impactful careers of tomorrow, including the fascinating world of forensic science.

Queries? Suggestions? Feedback?
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Hithen delivers thrilling win for Sri RV School

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hithen M took a 6/43 to guide his side Sri RV School to a thrilling 1-run victory over Sri Kumaran Children's Academy in a low-scoring affair of the under-14 BT Ramaiah Shield inter-school cricket tournament here.

Samarth Harithas (4/21) and Saket (2/16) bundle out Sri RV for a mere 132 in 26.1 overs despite some resistance from Ayaan Hussain and Shashanth S, who scored 38 and 25 respectively.

However, Sri Kumaran School batters suffered an almost similar fate at 131 all out in 33.1 overs with Hithen sparking the turnaround for Sri RV while Deekshith Reddy provided some helping hand with a spell of 2/21.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Sri RV School, Kolar: 132 all out in 26.1 overs (Ayaan Hussain 38, Shashanth S 25; Saket 2-16, Samarth Harithas 4-21) bt Sri Kumaran Children's Academy: 131 all out in 33.1 overs (Saket 36; Deekshith Reddy 2-21, Hithen M 6-43).

VSS International Public School: 328 all out in 45.4 overs (Sankalp S 43, Aarnav Karsha 120, Pratham Nayak M 38 n.o.; Advaith V Reddy 2-58, Aayansh Tandon 2-32, Naren Reddy N 3-74) bt Bethany High School: 76 all out in 29.4 overs (Aditya Amberkar 28; Pratham Nayak 4-24, Anirudh 4-22).

Ebenezer International School: 289/8 in 50 overs (Sai Vedant 26, Advay Choudhary 58, Aarav Sarin 101, Eepa Tanush 51; Sudhanva Arun 2-62, Bhargav Ashok Iyer 3-59) bt Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya: 141 all out in 34.5 overs (Prashanth Gowda 34, Samarth K Bharadwaj 33; Ayush Mishra 3-45, Saksham Bishnoi 2-22, Aarav S 2-15).

Vydehi School of Excellence : 233 all out in 43.2 overs (Tanish Bennuri 63, Havish Prathap 90, Yogiesh HR 25, Charith Kumar 5-40, Ahan 2-21) bt Presidency School, B-96: 47 all out in 17 overs (Nandan Hegde 7/23, Tanish Bennuri 3/21).

Sri Aurobindo Memorial School, CBSE: 87 all out in 28.4 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 2-2, Smaran Chiranjeevi 3-18) lt to The Sports School: 92/0 in 7.2 overs [Mayur N 39 n.o., Keshava T 37 n.o.).

KLE Society's School: 101 all out in 30.3 overs (Surya DC 68; Aarav Singh 3-21) lt to St Francis School, ICSE: 102/5 in 19 overs (Aryan Nayak 32 n.o., Surya DC 2-39).

Kensri School & College: 55 all out in 16.5 overs (Puneeth H 2-24, Vedanth Sri Ranga 2-13, Samarth Warad 4-8) lt to Soundarya Central School: 56/1 in 6.1 overs.

Vibgyor High School, Marathahalli: 134 all out in 40.5 overs (Nandagopal Sarath 27, Ishaanth Y 4-32, Ishaan S Kumar 2-21) bt Holy Cross School: 81 all out in 25.4 overs (Krishang Gupta 2-9, Vihaan Nayak 3-9, Shreyansh Gupta 2-4).

FOOTBALL SANTOSH TROPHY

Karnataka go down fighting to Services

Hosts must win big vs Goa to stay alive in the competition

Khullakpam Zahir Khan of Services (left) and Rajil Saji of Karnataka vie for the ball during their Santosh Trophy Group H qualifying round fixture at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday . DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka suffered a tough 2-1 Santosh Trophy Group H qualifying round defeat to Services at the noisy Bangalore Football Stadium here, as the visitors now have one foot in the next stage of the competition.

Mileswamy Govindraju's team put Karnataka's penalty box under siege with a flurry of shots in the first half, with the very first resulting in a handball and a penalty.

Khullakpam Zahir Khan made no mistake and slotted one into the right corner past Blue Colts' goalkeeper Sahil to give Services a 1-0 lead in the eighth minute.

Karnataka were put under pressure again, this time by Shubham Rana, who lofted a beautiful ball into the box, that was headed into the net by Zahir to make it 2-0 seven minutes later.

As the game progressed, Karnataka looked to get one back when Crispin C Cleetus turned Maracton Louis Nickson's ball into a chance, only to be saved by Gagandeep Singh.

The hosts were again denied, this time by the woodwork, when skipper Nikhil Raj created space on the left and breached into the box, only to hit the crossbar.

With the game slipping away, coach Ravi Babu Raju rang in the changes as Nikhil was subbed off and Bengaluru FC's Shreyas Ketkar was given the armband.

Dhanush R and Arvind Babu G were introduced, which resulted in a structural change, with Rohen Singh moving into the wings from a right back position.

Maracton, who had a disappointing game against Lakshadweep, gave Karnataka hope with a sensational strike into the top corner to draw one back in the 68th minute, thanks to Dhanush's brilliant first touch and pass.

Against the run of play, Services then strode in unchallenged from the left and supplied one up front, which was picked up by Roshan Panna, who only managed to hit it to the keeper.

There was a bit of drama as well after Karnataka's equaliser was ruled out due to a foul, which created a bit of ruckus in the stands. The police, however, intervened and cooled down the tempers.

Services now have destiny in their own hands, while Karnataka will need to beat Goa by a big margin and hope for the Services-Lakshadweep result goes their way.

Results: Services: 2 (Khullakpam Zahir Khan 8th pen, 15th) bt Karnataka: 1 (Macarton Louis Nickson 68th); Lakshadweep: 1 (Sabir Ali Babu Pandaram 65th) drew with Goa: 1 (Selwyn Frazier Miranda 45th+1).

Aarav's six-for powers Vidyashilp home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aarav Gandhi's six-wicket haul helped Vidyashilp Academy defeat Frank Anthony Public School by seven wickets in the under-14 B T Ramaiah Shield inter-school cricket tournament here.

Aarav claimed 6/24 as FAPS were rolled over for a paltry 123 in 38.4 overs, with Aniket Chaturvedi chipping in with 2/10.

With Viren Sanchetti remaining unbeaten on 62, Vidyashilp reached 124/3 in 24.3 overs for a convincing win.

Brief scores: Frank Anthony Public School: 123 all out in 38.4 overs (Hridhay Lunkar 35, Mohammad Muntazir Abbas 27; Aarav Gandhi 6-24, Aniket Chaturvedi 2-10) lt to Vidyashilp Academy: 124/3 in 24.3 overs (Viren Sancheti 62 n.o., Miraan Mahajan 34).

St Joseph's Indian High School: 207 all out in 37.1 overs (BA Gowri Shankar 27, Khubaib Pendari 84; Aditya Nagaraj Gorthi 5-32, Samar Modhe 2-60, Gauraansh Mehta 2-25) lt to Sri Kumaran Children's Home: 208/8 in 48.5 overs (Samar Modhe 66, Gauraansh Mehta 50; Mahesh Kantharaj 2-52, Khubaib Pendari 3-37).

Max Muller HS: 251/6 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 31, Rajveer Mehta 59, Cheran Tej Raju C 30, M Neeraj 57 n.o.) bt Delhi Public School, South: 179/8 in 50 overs (Akarsh M Appinakatte 78 n.o.; Jeevan 2-30, Rajveer Padam Mehta 2-30).

Jain Heritage School: 148 all out in 43 overs (Aarya Raj 82; Akhilesh Pradhan 3-21, Nandisha SP 2-26) lt to BGS National Public School: 149/3 in 34 overs (Pratham Kulkarni 38, J Jasim Rahman 31; Sonit Raj 2-29).

Delhi PS, North: 151 all out in 47.2 overs (Tanush Mishra 78; Ashwwath Nagarajan 2-20, Vishist PJ 2-34, Saurjyesh Das 2-26) lt to Delhi Public School, East: 155/3 in 35.1 overs (Saurjyesh Das 71, K Hrithik Polin 33 n.o.; Saachin Araganji 2-42).

Delhi PS, Electronic City: 215/9 in 50 overs (Lalithesh R 70, Arya Ayyappan 52; Syed Arfaaz P 2-53, Varun Kumar MG 2-39, Arnav Rajiv V P 3-28) bt Presidency School, RT Nagar: 179/8 in 50 overs (Arnav Rajiv VP 35, Meghanath Dalwai 28, Gavish 33; Mokshith Chalicheemala 3-18).

Gopalan National School: 230/9 in 50 overs (Aadil Renjit 34, Syed Izyan Hussain 70, Eric Rupreo 53; Mohammed Yaseen 3-28, Mohammad Uzer 2-41) lt to Holy Saint English School: 231/3 in 36.4 overs (Pratham Satish 45, Akhieera Allan W 104 n.o., Deekshith Gowda R 27 n.o.).

Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya: 242 all out in 50 overs (Mahin Srikanth 25, Sachith Shetty 27, P Lithik Reddy 84, Raunak Singh 55; Shishir 5-47, Naksh CM 2-37) bt St. Joseph's Boys High School: 114 all out in 39.1 overs (Prabhav Pydah 30; Sharav Koundinya 2-31, Jaipreeth 3-22, Tejas Bhat 3-23).

McCullum wants to stay on as coach despite Ashes drubbing

ADELAIDE, AFP

England coach Brendon McCullum wants to stay in his job despite a chastening Ashes series defeat but admits his future is out of his hands.

England are 3-0 down in the five-match series after just 11 days of cricket, outplayed by a hungry Australian team.

McCullum had branded the tour as "the biggest series of all our lives" but defeats in Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide have ended the tourists' hopes of wresting back the Ashes from their fierce rivals.

Now he and managing director of men's cricket Rob Key are facing tough questions over their positions after yet another England capitulation in Australia.

McCullum's predecessor, Chris Silverwood, did not survive a 4-0 defeat four years ago.

Brandon McCullum

The New Zealander has a contract with England until the end of 2027 -- a period that includes the next home Ashes, earlier in the same year.

But the 44-year-old said, in comments carried by British media, that his fate would be decided by others.

"I'll just keep trying to do the job, try to learn the lessons that we haven't quite got right here and try to make some adjustments," said McCullum.

"Those questions are for someone else, not for me. Sometimes you don't win, and then those decisions are up to other people. It's a pretty good gig, it's good fun. You travel the world with the lads and try to play some exciting cricket and try to achieve some things."

McCullum said he believed England had improved since he took over in 2022, when he and captain Ben Stokes came together and urged players to play a fearless form of cricket dubbed "Bazball".

"We're not the finished article, but I think we've definitely improved as a cricket team," he said. "We've had an identity about us.

"You're always looking at what you've got right and what you've got wrong, and you're not too ignorant to admit -- or too arrogant either -- that you get some things wrong. (It's OK) as long as you don't keep making the same mistakes."

Villa sink United to boost title bid

Rogers scores a brace to nullify Matheus' equaliser

BIRMINGHAM, AFP

Aston Villa stepped up their unexpected Premier League title challenge as Morgan Rogers' brilliant brace sealed a 2-1 win against Manchester United on Sunday.

Unai Emery's side took the lead through Rogers' stunning strike late in the first half at Villa Park.

Matheus Cunha levelled for United moments later but Rogers bagged his sixth goal in his last six league appearances after the interval to clinch Villa's 10th successive victory in all competitions.

Unai Emery's third-placed side are just three points adrift of leaders Arsenal and one behind second-placed Manchester City as they chase a first English title since 1981.

Villa are on their best winning run in all competitions since 1914, when they secured 11 successive victories.

They have won seven consecutive top-flight matches for the first time since 1989-90, when they finished second under Graham Taylor.

Villa's ascent into the title race is even more remarkable as it comes after their worst start to a league campaign for 28 years, featuring just two points and one goal scored in their opening five matches.

Emery has turned Villa Park into a fortress, with just one Premier League home defeat in 2025, fewer than any other team.

Arsenal have already lost there this season and even United, beaten just once in their previous 26 trips to Villa, were unable to derail Emery's title charge.

Seventh-placed United's second defeat in their last 11 league matches left them winless in their last two games after the 4-4 draw with Bournemouth on Monday.

Adding to Ruben Amorim's problems, United captain Bruno Fernandes was forced off at half-time with an apparent hamstring issue.

Fernandes' injury couldn't have come at a worse time for Amorim, who was without seven players against Villa.

Harry Maguire, Matthijs de Ligt and Kobbie Mainoo were injured, Casemiro was suspended, while Amad Diallo, Bryan Mbeumo and Noussair Mazraoui are at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Fernandes recently claimed United "wanted me to go" when Al-Hilal made a bid for him in the summer.

The Portugal midfielder rejected the switch to Saudi Arabia, but United will experience what life without their influential skipper is like if Fernandes is sidelined for a prolonged spell.

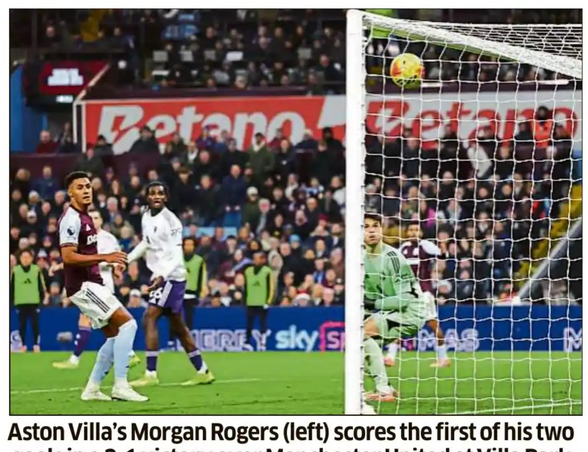
Benjamin Sesko should have put United in front after racing into the Villa area, but he hesitated, allowing Emiliano Martinez time to dash off his line and block the Slovenian's shot.

Villa took the lead with a perfectly crafted counter-attack in the 45th minute.

John McGinn's pin-point pass sent Rogers surging away down the left flank and the England midfielder glided past Leny Yoro to curl a brilliant finish into the far corner from just inside the area.

Matty Cash gifted United their equaliser on the stroke of half-time, the defender dawdling in possession as Patrick Dorgu pounced to tee up Cunha for a clinical finish finish from an acute angle.

Losing Fernandes for the second half was a hammer blow and the irrepressible Rogers restored Villa's advantage in the 57th minute.



Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers (left) scores the first of his two goals in a 2-1 victory over Manchester United at Villa Park in Birmingham on Sunday night. REUTERS

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

1. KMCRI/SUP(5)/General Surgery /Tender-01/284/2025-26 Date: 22 -12 -2025.
2. KMCRI/SUP(5)/General Surgery /Tender-01/287/2025-26 Date: 22 -12 -2025.
3. KMCRI/SUP(5)/General Surgery /Tender-01/288/2025-26 Date: 22 -12 -2025.
4. KMCRI/SUP(5)/General Surgery /Tender-01/289/2025-26 Date: 22 -12 -2025.
5. KMCRI/SUP(5)/General Surgery /Tender-01/412/2025-26 Date: 22 -12 -2025.

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ **1) General Surgery** ವಿಭಾಗದ **1) 4K Laparoscopic set with ICG, Laparoscopy Instrument sets & Radio frequency generator with vessel sealing and bipolar resection, 2) VAAFT Fistulectomy set, 3) Laser Triple wavelength diode 4) HD Video Endoscopy, Colonoscopy & ERCP Instruments, 5) Ultrasonic with Advance Bipolar Instruments** ಒಟ್ಟು 5 ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

Govt. of India
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Office of Welfare Commissioner
Labour Welfare Organisation, Shram Kalyan Sadan, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, 2nd Stage, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Suburb, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru - 560022. Ph. 080-23477491.

INTERVIEW

It is proposed to engage Medical Officers in the following Dispensaries under Labour Welfare Organisation, Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour, Bangalore on **"Purely contract Basis" for a period of 179 days** on fixed payment of Rs.75,000/- per month.

Place of Posting : Dharwad, Sira, Karkala, Kalladaka, Putturu, Kariganuru (Hospet), Sanduru, Lokapura, Ballari, Harihara.

QUALIFICATION : MBBS under IMC Act 1956 for Medical Officers (Contract Basis).

AGE : Upto 70 years

DATE OF INTERVIEW : Interested candidates may send in their BIO DATA with full Details & Address to **wclwoblr-ka@nic.in** on or before 10 days from the date of advertisement. The date of interview will be informed to the Shortlisted candidates

Sd/-
K.A. SEBASTIAN, CLS
Welfare Commissioner
LWO, Bengaluru

KOF Since 1984
Karnataka Co-Operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd.
No.11, Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Road Cross, Bengaluru-560001.
Ph: 080-25550268, 080-25583061, **E-mail: doc@kof.coop, Web: kof.co.in**

No. KOF/DOC/2025-26/1134 DATE : 22.12.2025

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The Managing Director, KCOGF Ltd., Bengaluru invites tender through e-procurement for **Selection of EPC Contractor for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Grid Connected 100 KWP Rooftop Solar Power Plant at Davangere Oil Complex, a unit of Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Limited, APMC Road, Davangere-577003.** The tender documents and tender schedule can be obtained from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax: 080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of 3 Nos of 75 TR Capacity FRP Cooling tower and Providing FRP Coating to the Existing Condenser Water lines at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037.
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/0052/ETN-08/2025-26 Dt. 22.12.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 17.74 Lakhs
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 35,480/- (Validity for 180 days)

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC Building 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, Ph: 080-22483636/38/39

No.HR-14012/1/2023-HRADMIN-KSBCL(E-7173) Date: 22.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Karnataka State Beverage Corporation Limited has invited e-tender under Two cover System for **providing Housekeeping staff and Drivers services for a period of 2 years.**

Companies/agencies providing human resource services with an audited account for at least 03 financial years are eligible to participate in the e-tender through the Karnataka Government's e-procurement platform.

The interested companies/Agencies may participate by due registration in Karnataka Procurement Portal (KPPP) of the Government of Karnataka.

The calendar of events is as follows:

1. Issue of Tender Notification : Tender No: **KSBCL/2025-26/SE0036 dated: 22.12.2025. 2.** Pre Bid Meeting: **05.01.2026, 11:30 AM onwards (at above Office Address). 3.** Last date & time for submission of tenders : **09.01.2026 upto 05.30 P.M. 4.** Opening of Technical Bid : **12.01.2026 at 10.30 A.M. 5.** Opening of Financial Bid : **14.01.2026 at 10.30 A.M.**

For more details, visit the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/4599/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Director (A&I)

DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
Office of the Executive Engineer
No.1 Division, No. 14, Reshme Bhavan, Okalipuram, Bangalore-560021

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಅ/ರೇಇ/ಚ.ರಾ.ಹೈ.ಮಾ./ಅ.ಸ./243/2025-26 Date : 22.12.2025

Short Term Tender Notification No. 07/2025-26

Tender Invited from the Suppliers/Manufacturers/Dealers/ Contractors for the rated of Supplying and installation of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical items, for preparation of estimates only through the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The eligible Suppliers/Manufacturers/Dealers/contractors can participate in this tender through **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**. Last date for submission of tenders **Date: 29.12.2025 up to 16.00 hours.** Date of opening of tender **Date: 30.12.2025 at 16.30. hours** (if possible). Tender processing fees & EMD as per the KPP Portal. Estimate Cost **Rs.185.85 Lakhs.** For more information, contact the above office during office hours.

Note: Any changes to this Notification will be notified in the KPP Portal only.

DIPR/CP/4609/SA/2025-26

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
No.1 Division, DOS, Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AND SPECIAL COURT OF KPIDFE ACT 2004, AT BENGALURU (CCH-92)

MISC. No. 647/2025

BETWEEN: The Special Officer & Competent Authority for IMA & Other KPID Cases. Office at; 3rd Floor, Mini V.V. Tower, Podium Block, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560 001. Represented by its Competent Authority Sri. Amlan Aditya Biswas, Competent Authority and Special Officer for, Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha Aged about 55 years .....**PETITIONER**

AND

M/s. Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha and others

...**RESPONDENT'S**

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No. 3

3. Sri. K.V. Krishna Aged about 42 years S/o. Venkataiah Residing at Channapatna taluk, Chakkur District, Ramanagar, Karnataka 562160

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(1) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 and against the Respondents.

The Respondent No. 3 is hereby issued show cause notice U/s 12(1) of KPIDFE Act 2004 to appear in court of the XCI Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petition on **19th day of January 2026 at 11.00 A.M.,** in the forenoon.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this **16th day December 2025.**

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Sri Satish V., Special Public Prosecutor.

DIPR/CP/4613/Zen/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣ ಉದ್ಯಮ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಖಾಗ್ರಾ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಡಿಐಸಿ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್, ರಾಯಾಪೂರ, ಧಾರವಾಡ-9. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836-2324798. e-mail: ddkvidwd1234@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಪಂಧಾ/ಉನಿ(ಖಾಗ್ರಾ)/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-12-2025

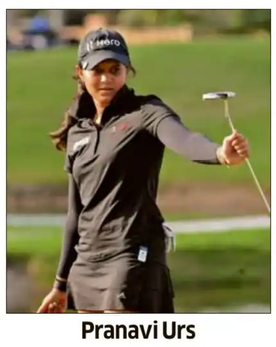
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
(Inviting Tender through E-Procurment)
TENDER NO.IC/2025-26/IND0141, Dated: 20-12-2025

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ 07 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ವೃತ್ತಿನಿರತ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ **ವಿದ್ಯುತ್‌ಚಾಲಿತ ಹೊಲಿಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರ 775 Nos** ಹಾಗೂ ವೃತ್ತಿನಿರತ ಪುರುಷ ಕುಶಲಕರ್ಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸುಧಾರಿತ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್‌ಚಾಲಿತ **ಬಡಗಿತನ 50 Nos, ಕಮ್ಮಾರಿಕೆ 50 Nos, ಗೌಂಡಿ 50 Nos, ಕ್ಷೌರಿಕ 50 Nos,** ಹಾಗೂ **ಧೋಬಿ 50 Nos** ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ.82,00,000/- (ರೂ. ಎಂಭತ್ತೆರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಮೊತ್ತದ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು ಅಥವಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರಿಂದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಹೊಂದಿದವರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶಡ್ಯೂಲ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು, ನಿಯಮಗಳು, ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಕುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಖಾಗ್ರಾ)
ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೩/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1018/2025-26



Pranavi Urs

Pranavi to join Jeev at final IGPL Tour in Colombo

COLOMBO, PTI: History-maker and IGPL Mumbai tour amateur winner Pranavi Urs is set to tee off alongside the seasoned Jeev Milkha Singh in the final leg of the IGPL Tour here, a conclusion to a breakthrough inaugural season.

Joining the field for the first time will be former Asian Tour No. 1 Jyoti Randhawa, who alongside Jeev, plays in the European Legends Tour.

Gaganjeet Bhullar demonstrated his class by winning the opening two events at Chandigarh and Jaypee Greens, whereas SSP Chawrasia, a six-time Asian Tour winner, has also been a consistent presence throughout the season.

Additionally, Bhullar finished third at the IGPL Invitational Ahmedabad recently after returning from his commitments on the International Series and Asian Tour.

The Order of Merit leader Aman Raj has been the star of the season, capturing victories at both Jaipur and Kolkata. The 30-year-old fired rounds of 9-under 61 three times in just four rounds during that stretch, demonstrating consistency that has propelled him to the top of the standings.

The highlight of the season came at Mumbai's Bombay Presidency Golf Club, where Pranavi created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a professional tournament against men.

Ridhima Dilawari, another talented female professional, will also be competing in Colombo alongside the diverse field of 47 professionals and 13 amateurs from India and Sri Lanka, ensuring the tour concludes with the same inclusive spirit that has defined its inaugural season.

Rohit considered retirement after 2023 WC heartbreak

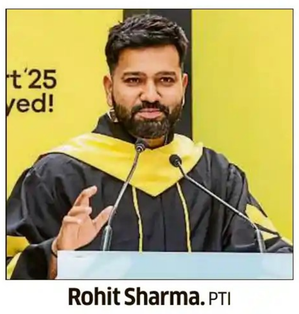
'Was completely devastated and there was no energy left'

NEW DELHI, PTI

In a stunning revelation, former India captain Rohit Sharma has said that he contemplated retirement after the heartbreaking loss to Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup final as he "felt that the sport had taken everything out of me." Under the captaincy of Rohit, the Indian team enjoyed a dream run in that tournament at home and marched into the final with nine consecutive wins.

However, Australia dashed their hopes in the game that mattered the most, with Travis Head scoring a match-winning hundred.

"After 2023 World Cup final, I was completed distraught and felt like I didn't want to play this sport anymore because it had taken everything out of me and I felt I had nothing left," Rohit said during a Masters Union event in Gurugram on Sunday.



Rohit Sharma. PTI

"It took some time and I kept reminding myself that this is something I truly love, that it was right in front of me, and I couldn't let it go so easy. Slowly, I found my way back, regaining the energy and getting myself moving again on the field.

"Everybody was extremely disappointed, and we just couldn't believe what had happened. It was a very tough time for me personally because I had put everything into that World Cup not just two or three months before it, but ever since I took over the captaincy in 2022," he added.

Rohit, who has retired from T20Is and Tests and was removed from ODI captaincy earlier this year, continues to play the 50-over format and would like to end his career with one final attempt at the 2027 World Cup.

"My only goal was to win the World Cup, whether it was the T20 World Cup or the 2023 World Cup. So when it didn't happen, I was completely devastated. There was no energy left in my body. It took me a couple of months to recover and bring myself back," said Rohit.

Less than a year after that loss to Australia in Ahmedabad, Rohit led the Indian team to the T20 World Cup title in the Americas, but overcoming the pain of the defeat in November 2023 was extremely difficult. "I guess when you invest so much into something and don't achieve the result, it's a very natural reaction. That's exactly what happened with me. But I also knew that life doesn't end there.

"It was a big lesson for me how to deal with disappointment, reset, and start fresh. I knew that something else was coming the 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies and I had to shift all my focus towards that.

"It's very easy to say this now, but at that moment, it was extremely difficult," Rohit said.

CRICKET

Comeback man Gowtham calls time on career

Off-spinner made a name for himself with his brilliant return in 2016

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Krishnappa Gowtham, one of Karnataka's grittiest cricketers over the last decade who had the hard-nosed ability to find an extra gear whenever the chips were down, called time on his career that'll best be remembered for his sensational comeback from the wilderness in the 2016-17 season.

Out of the State side since the last season as the selectors chose to look at the future, the writing was on the wall for the 37-year-old off-spinning all-rounder who even refused offers from other State sides because he wanted his journey to end with Karnataka. With the State doors shut, Gowtham, who has been doing Kannada commentary since last year, decided to make the retirement decision formal on Monday at the very venue that gave wings to his cricketing dreams – the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"I would like to let you know that I have decided to retire from first-class and international cricket," Gowtham said at a press conference attended by his wife Archana and daughter Nithara .

"It has been a matter of immense pride representing Karnataka and India.

"I have been a man of comebacks, returning from the brink on more than one occasion and I could have done so again. However, had I worked my way back into the Karnataka team, it would have been unfair to the youngsters who are the future of the team. While I had the option of going to another state, I never seriously considered it. I began my journey as a Karnataka cricketer and want to end it that way."

Krishnappa Gowtham (centre) poses with his daughter Nithara (left) and wife Archana after announcing his retirement from cricket. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Having made an impression since his early teenage years, Gowtham, who hails from Dooravani Nagar and studied in Vidya Mandir school in that locality like current KSCA president and former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad, got his first break when he was picked for the State senior side in the 2012-13 Ranji Trophy season.

Things didn't take off as expected in a talent-loaded team as Gowtham managed only 3 caps where he picked up 9 wickets. Then, for little fault of his, the then 24-year-old was banished from the State team, something that rankled him a lot. But the axing also forced him to reinvent and rediscover himself. Apart from sharpening his off-spin skills, he also worked a lot on his batting, turning himself into an all-rounder.

All that sweat, blood and toil bore fruit again as he was handed a recall in the 2016-17 season. It was the opportunity the steely yet temperamental Gowtham was waiting for, making a smashing return to even earn the moniker "Bhajji" from his state-mates – a comparison to India off-spinning great Harbhajan Singh.

In the first three matches itself he bagged 18 wickets, instantly establishing himself as one of the key players across formats.

That Ranji Trophy season he bagged 27 wickets before taking a 39 next season.

He went on to earn big bucks in the IPL auctions too, first taking home Rs 6.2 crore by Rajasthan Royals in 2018 and then creating history in February 2021 when Chennai Super Kings splurged a whopping Rs 9.25 crore on him, then making him the most expensive uncapped player in the history of IPL. He also realised his India dream when he played his one and only international game – a one-dayer against Sri Lanka in Colombo in July 2021.

Gowtham was ignored after the 2022-23 season despite a decent haul of 39 wickets in 11 games.

The explanation given by the then selection committee was it was time to look into the future as the State underwent a massive transition.

The decision would have hurt Gowtham, but he still believed there could be a way back which was not to be. Comebacks after 35 are rare, but as he said in retirement speech, he can walk with 'no regrets' after leaving it all out in the field.

CAREER NUMBERS

	M	W	R	BBI	BBM	5w	50s	100s	HS
ODIs	1	1	2	1/49	1/49	0	0	0	2
FC	59	224	1,419	8/60	14/70	14	5	1	149
List A	68	96	630	5/28	5/28	2	1	0	57*
T20s	92	74	734	4/19	4/19	0	2	0	60

Fielding in focus for Harman & Co

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

The Indian women's cricket team will look to raise its fielding standards by a few notches and build on a comprehensive opening win when it squares off against Sri Lanka in the second WT20I here on Tuesday.

Playing its first international game after a historic World Cup triumph last month, Harmanpreet Kaur's side didn't need to break much sweat in the batting and bowling departments during an eight-wicket win over the island nation.

However, the team's fielding, especially catching, left a lot to be desired despite the bowlers managing to restrict the Lankans to a paltry 121 for 6.

"We are working on our fielding. Don't know why we keep dropping catches. It is wet out here, but it is not an excuse. That is something we really need to think about. in the next match, we will come about with better approach," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur had said after the match.

The Indian team had a well-deserved six-week break following the World Cup high. The players converged for a week-long camp at the Centre Of Excellence in Bengaluru after that.

Some rustiness in fielding was pretty much expected and the seasoned skipper feels that the team would be getting into the groove very soon.

"We are playing after a month. We don't want to unnecessarily challenge ourselves. We just want to do well for the team.

"We just wanted to bowl first and see how it goes. We wanted to show the better approach," Harmanpreet had said.

On paper, India are overwhelming favourites to win the series against Chamari Athapaththu-led visitors.

In the form of her life, Jemimah Rodrigues commenced her post-World Cup journey from where she left during the title victory.

She looked in rhythm and was especially severe on Shashini Gimhani, a left-arm wrist spinner, which is a rare breed in women's cricket.

Gimhani bowled a lot of over-pitched deliveries and failed to get her length right and Rodrigues alone creamed her for half a dozen boundaries.

The biggest gain for India was 20-year-old left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma, who was recently ignored at the WPL auctions.

Although Vaishnavi went wicket-less, she gave away only 16 runs and didn't concede a single boundary.

For Shafali Verma, the series is an important one and she would like to be more consistent while batting in the format that suits her game.

In the opening game, Sri Lanka's inept performance didn't test India's batting much.

LIVE 7:00 PM, STAR SPORTS

India won the first T20I comprehensively in Visakhapatnam but will look to improve their fielding standards in the second match at the same venue. PTI

Huge pay hike for domestic women cricketers

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI has more than doubled the match fees of women cricketers and officials in domestic cricket, a move triggered by India's maiden ODI World Cup triumph and aimed at creating a more equitable pay structure across the circuit.

The substantial hike was approved by the Board's Apex Council.

As per the revised structure, senior women cricketers plying their trade in domestic tournaments will now earn Rs 50,000 per day, a significant jump from the existing Rs 20,000 (Rs 10,000 for reserves) per match day.

For senior women's domestic one-day tournaments and multi-day competitions, players in the first XI will receive Rs 50,000 per day, while those in reserves will be paid half the amount at Rs 25,000 per day.

Match officials, including umpires and match referees, will also benefit from the revised fee structure.

For league matches in domestic tournaments, the proposed earnings for umpires and match referees will be Rs 40,000 per day.

For knockout matches, the per-day fee will range between Rs 50,000 and Rs 60,000.

As a result of this hike, umpires officiating in Ranji Trophy league matches will now earn around Rs 1.60 lakh per game.

PAY HIKE

- **Senior women's multi-day and one-day competitions**
  Existing fee: Rs 20,000
  Revised fee: Rs 50,00
  (Reserves: Rs 25,000)
- **T20 events**
  Exisiting fee: Rs 10,000
  Revised fee: Rs 25,000
  (Reserves: Rs 12,500)
- **Junior women's cricketers:** U-23 & U-19 match fee (per day)
  Existing: Rs 10,000
  Revised: Rs 25,000

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Rahul to play on Jan 3 & 6

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Star India batter KL Rahul has confirmed his availability for the January 3 and 6 Vijay Hazare Trophy matches for Karnataka while fast bowler Prasidh Krishna has committed to play three matches ahead of ODI engagements against a visiting New Zealand side.

"Yes, KL has confirmed that he'll play on Jan 3 and 6 while Prasidh will play both those games as well as another match on Dec 29," newly-appointed chairman of the selection committee Amit Verma told *DH*. "Both players will then leave on Jan 7 to assemble with the Indian team for the New Zealand series."

Slotted in Group A, defending champions Karnataka will take on arch-rivals Tamil Nadu on December 29, play Tripura on January 3 and Rajasthan on January 6. Karnataka play all their matches in Ahmedabad with other group members being the newly-crowned Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy champions Jharkhand, Kerala, Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh.

According to BCCI's latest diktat, all fit India internationals will have to play a minimum of two matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the national one-day championship that kicks off across various venues on December 24.

KL Rahul

Prasidh Krishna

IN BRIEF

Gameon clinch 3-2 thriller

▶ Gameon Hockey Club defeated Rising Star HC B 3-2 in the latest round of matches of the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Monday.
Results: Gameon HC: 3 (Sharath 1st, Avinash 20th, Murthy 34th) bt Rising Star HC B: 2 (Beny Belliappa 15th, Malikarjun 31st).

Ashwa Veeram for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Veeram, from the stables of S Nawab and to be ridden by Yash Narredu, appeals the most in a small field of five runners for the Global Stud North India 2000 Guineas, the feature event of races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Tuesday.
First race starts at 2.00 pm.
1. Maharana Pratap Plate - 1600M: Black Rainstorm 1, Jet Thunder 2.
2. Prithviraj Chauhan Plate - 1000M: Royal Baby 1, Bay Of Biscay 2, Meridia 3.
3. Ravindergarh Trophy - 1600M: Ashwa Pathan 1, Heer 2, Bumblebee 3.
4. Global Stud North India 2000 Guineas - 1400M: Ashwa Veeram 1, Rocket Rod 2, Ashwa Changez 3.
5. K P Mohan Memorial Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Exhilarating 1, Chieftain 2, Insta Millionaire 3.
6. K P Mohan Memorial Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Havana Sky 1, Winning Legacy 2, Nashvegas 3.
Day's best: Havana Sky.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: 4, 5 & 6,

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd WT20I: India vs Sri Lanka (7:00 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

Africa Cup of Nations: DR Congo vs Benin (**6:00 pm**), Senegal vs Botswana (**8:30 pm**), Nigeria vs Tanzania (**11:00 pm**), Tunisia vs Uganda. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

Navy's Jadhav pips Babuta to 10m air rifle gold

BHOPAL, PTI: Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav held off the challenge of Olympian Arjun Babuta to clinch the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the 68th National Shooting Championship here Monday.

Jadhav finished with 252.1 to claim top-of-the-podium place ahead of Babuta, who secured silver with 251.4, while reigning 50m rifle 3 positions national champion Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar bagged bronze with 229.8.

Kiran Ankush Jadhav won the 10m air rifle gold at the 68th Shooting nationals. X

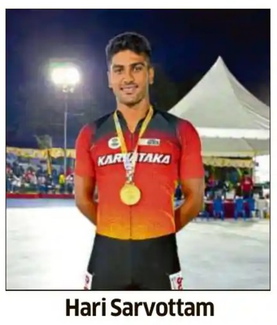
Arjun's Railways teammate Shahu Tushar Mane finished fourth with 209.3, followed by Himanshu (181.1), Ramayana Tomer (166.7), Onkar Vikas Waghamare (145.4) and Pradeep Singh (123.3) to round out the final lineup.

In the men's 10m air rifle junior final, Gujarat's Mohammed Murtaza Vania delivered an authoritative display to secure the gold medal with 254.3.

Abhinav Shaw of West Bengal claimed the silver with 251.6, while Onkar Vikas Waghamare finished third with 230.1 to earn the bronze medal.

Naraen Pranav of Karnataka finished fourth with 209, following a shoot-off with Onkar, while Divyanshu Shailendra Dewangan (187.5) and Parth Mane (166.9) were placed fifth and sixth respectively, the latter also bowing out after a shoot-off.

Uma Mahesh Maddineni (145.3) and Himanshu (123) completed the finalists.



Hari Sarvottam

Karnataka skates to glory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hari Sarvottam fuelled Karnataka's success at the National Roller Skating Championships held in Vishakapatnam recently.

Overall, the Karnataka State team secured 15 gold, 28 silver and 31 bronze medals across all the categories of the tournament.

Hari stood out in the Senior category with gold in the 100m road event, silver for the mixed relay track and bronze medals for the dual time-trial track and men's relay track for a total of four individual medals.

Duffy fifer seals series for New Zealand over WI

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND), AFP

New Zealand crushed West Indies by 323 runs on Monday to win the third Test at Mount Maunganui and seal a 2-0 series victory, with Jacob Duffy's five-wicket haul proving crucial.

The hosts set a target of 462 and bowled out the tourists for 138, wrapping up the innings four overs after tea following a dramatic collapse either side of lunch.

Duffy finished with 5/42 and was backed up by Ajaz Patel, who claimed 3/23, while opener Brandon King top-scored for West Indies with 67.

New Zealand's Devon Conway scored 227 and 100 in two innings, while captain Tom Latham scored 137 and 101 — the first opening pair in first-class cricket history to score twin centuries in the same match — to set up the win.

The series began with a draw in Christchurch, before New Zealand won the second Test in Wellington.

"It was a pretty clinical performance," Latham said. "Winning the toss, batting first, being able to get close to 600, the perfect blueprint.

"And then obviously doing what we did with the ball... guys sort of playing the way that they did was obviously really pleasing," he said.

Seamer Duffy and spinner Patel posed constant danger to both edges of the bat on a cracked surface that offered uneven movement and bounce.

New Zealand players celebrate with the trophy after beating West Indies 2-0 in Mount Maunganui on Monday. AFP

Brief scores: New Zealand: 575/8 decl & 306/2 decl bt West Indies: 420 all out & (O/n: 43/0): 138 all out in 80.3 overs (Brandon King 67; Jacob Duffy 5-42, Ajaz Patel 3-23). **Result:** NZ won by 323 runs. **PoM:** Devon Conway. **PoS:** Jacob Duffy.

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